

APPENDIX FOR 1837.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Boston, May 31.

THE Annual Meeting of the MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY was held at the Society's Hall, Athenæum building, Pearl street, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The records of the last meeting of the Society, and of the proceedings of the Counsellors during the past year, were read.

The Recording Secretary reported the names of those who have become Fellows or Honorary Members of the Society during the past year.

Voted, To proceed to the election of Counsellors.

Drs. Wyman of Roxbury, Wellington of West Cambridge, Willard of Uxbridge, Brown of Boston, Alden of Randolph, Wilder of Leominster, Bartlett of Concord, and Lewis of Boston, were appointed Scrutineers.

Voted, That the number of Counsellors in each Department be as follows, viz.:

First Department, 22; Second Department, 13; Third Department, 13; Fourth Department, 9; Fifth Department, 7; Sixth Department, 7; Seventh Department, 8; Eighth Department, 6; Ninth Department, 6; Tenth Department, 4.

The following gentlemen were elected in the several departments:

First Department—Drs. James Jackson, Benjamin Shurtleff, John C. Warren, John Randall, George C. Shattuck, Walter

Channing, Jacob Bigelow, George Hayward, Enoch Hale, Solomon D. Townsend, John Ware, Zabdiel B. Adams, David Osgood, Edward Reynolds, Jr., John Homans, Woodbridge Strong, John Jeffries, George B. Doane, Winslow Lewis, Jr., George W. Otis, Samuel Morrill, Jerome V. C. Smith.

Second Department—Drs. Joseph Kittredge, Jeremiah Spofford, Abel L. Peirson, Andrew Nichols, Edward L. Coffin, Samuel Johnson, Richard S. Spofford, Calvin Briggs, Dean Robinson, Jonathan G. Johnson, Edward A. Holyoke, Wyatt C. Boyden, Rufus Longley.

Third Department—Drs. Thomas Bucklin, John Walton, Abraham R. Thompson, Timothy Wellington, Zadok Howe, William J. Walker, John C. Dalton, Josiah Bartlett, Daniel Swan, John O. Green, Joshua Green, Elisha Bartlett, Anson Hooker.

Fourth Department—Drs. Stephen Bachelder, John Green, Edward Flint, Benjamin F. Heywood, Charles W. Wilder, Amos Parker, George Willard, John Starkweather, John G. Metcalf.

Fifth Department—Drs. Joseph H. Flint, Alpheus F. Stone, Stephen W. Williams, Eli Hall, Elisha Mather, Bela B. Jones, David Bemis.

Sixth Department—Drs. Henry H. Childs, William H. Tyler, Asa G. Welch, Royal Fowler, Robert Worthington, Alfred Perry, Hubbard Bartlett.

Seventh Department—Drs. Nathaniel Miller, John Bartlett, Samuel Bugbee, Robert Thaxter, Jeremy Stimpson, Rufus Wyman, Ebenezer Alden, Noah Fifield.

Eighth Department—Drs. Hector Orr, Nathan Hayward, Ezekiel Thaxter, Paul L. Nichols, Noah Whitman, William Gordon.

Ninth Department—Drs. Alexander Read, William C. Whittredge, Andrew Mackie, Caleb Swan, Menzies R. Randall, William A. Gordon.

Tenth Department—Drs. Joseph Sampson, Aaron Cornish, Paul Swift, Henry Tuck.

CENSORS.

FOR THE FIRST MEDICAL DISTRICT, AND FOR THE SOCIETY AT
LARGE.

William J. Walker, Abel L. Peirson, John Ware, Edward
Reynolds, Jr., Woodbridge Strong.

FOR THE SECOND MEDICAL DISTRICT.

John Green, Benjamin F. Heywood, Charles W. Wilder,
Benjamin Pond, William Workman.

FOR THE THIRD MEDICAL DISTRICT.

Stephen W. Williams, Elisha Mather, Atherton Clark,
Bela B. Jones, David Bemis.

FOR THE FOURTH MEDICAL DISTRICT.

Henry H. Childs, William H. Tyler, Alfred Perry, Asa
G. Welch, Charles Worthington.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS.

Enoch Hale, John Ware, Solomon D. Townsend.

COMMITTEE ON RESIGNATIONS.

Walter Channing, Zabdiel B. Adams, John Jeffries.

Ebenezer Alden, M. D., of Randolph, was elected to deliver
the next annual discourse.

The Treasurer presented and read his annual reports.

From the Report of Receipts and Expenditures, it appeared,
that the balance on hand last year was

	\$47 90
Received during the year, viz.:	
For assessments, paid to the Treasurer,	881 00
Cash from Librarian,	69 60
From Treasurer of Worcester District Society,	58 00
“ “ of Essex South District Society,	66 00
“ Secretary of Censors, First Medical District and Society at large,	142 00
Total,	<u>\$1264 50</u>

The expenditures for the year were,	\$723 80
Leaving a balance in the Treasury of	535 70
	<hr/>
	\$1264 50

From the Report on the Permanent Fund, it appears, that the whole is invested in the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, in three policies, and, with interest to January 1, 1837, amounts to \$5,745 31.

The following Report was read:

The subscribers, a committee of the Massachusetts Medical Society, appointed to examine the Treasurer's accounts, have attended to that duty, and find them correctly cast and duly vouched.

(Signed,)

S. D. TOWNSEND,
W. STRONG.

Boston, May 29, 1837.

Voted, That the Reports of the Treasurer, and that of the Auditing Committee, be accepted.

The Report of the Committee on the Library was read and accepted.

Invitations for the Fellows of the Society to visit the Museums of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, and the Boston Society of Natural History, were read, whereupon it was

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to those Societies, for their polite invitation.

On recommendation by the Counsellors,

Voted, That the following be adopted as one of the rules and orders of the Counsellors:

"No candidate for election as a Fellow of this Society shall be finally balloted for by the Counsellors, at any meeting, except at the first stated meeting of the Counsellors, unless there be present, at the time of balloting, at least one Counsellor from the county where the candidate resides, or there be furnished a written recommendation that he be elected, from a Counsellor of the same county."

Voted, That the following Resolutions, recommended by the Counsellors, be adopted, viz.:

Resolved, That those persons who have heretofore been graduated Doctors of Medicine, by the authority of the Berkshire Medical Institution, shall be entitled to enter this Society as Fellows, upon signing the By-Laws, in the same manner as the medical graduates of Harvard College.

Resolved, That all persons who shall hereafter be graduated Doctors of Medicine, by the Berkshire Medical Institution, shall be regarded as having the same rights and privileges as the medical graduates of Harvard College, in respect to this Society.

On recommendation by the Counsellors,

Voted, That the 8th and 53d By-Laws be amended, by adding to each, after the words Harvard University, "or of the Berkshire Medical Institution." Also, that the following be added to the By-Laws, and numbered LVI:

"If any licentiate of this Society or Doctor in Medicine, graduated either at Harvard University or at the Berkshire Medical Institution, shall neglect to obtain admission as a Fellow of this Society, according to the method of the 53d By-Law, for one year after he is entitled to the same, he shall be deemed an irregular practitioner; nor shall he afterwards be admitted as a Fellow of the Society, unless he make a representation of his case in writing to the Counsellors, and satisfy them that he has had good reasons for not pursuing the steps necessary for his admission as a Fellow within the time above specified. In every such case, the Counsellors shall decide by vote whether the reasons are or are not satisfactory, and the result shall be communicated to the applicant by the Corresponding Secretary; whereupon, if the result be favorable to the applicant, and he sign the By-Laws, according to the 53d By-Law, within three months, he shall be admitted as a Fellow; and not otherwise."

Voted, That the Recording Secretary publish this 56th By-Law in one or more newspapers in every county of this Commonwealth.

Voted, That the 17th "Order" of the Society be amended,

by adding, after the words Harvard University, "and of the Berkshire Medical Institution," as often as those words occur.

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to the liberal donor of the 7th volume of the Library of Practical Medicine, for his valuable donation.

On the subject of the Report of the Counsellors on Violations of By-Laws, which was published in October,

Voted, That, in the opinion of the Society, the Fellow referred to as the gentleman who had preferred charges against certain members of this Society, is not subject to censure for any thing he has done or omitted to do in the premises.

At 1 o'clock, George Hayward, M. D., read to the Society an interesting discourse on some of the Diseases of the Knee-Joint.

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. Hayward for his interesting and instructive discourse.

Voted, That the meeting be dissolved.

The Fellows of the Society then proceeded to Faneuil Hall, and dined together, to the number of about two hundred.

Proceedings of the Counsellors.

OCTOBER MEETING, 1836.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's Room, October 5, 1836, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The records of the last meeting were read.

The Corresponding Secretary reported the names of the gentlemen admitted Fellows of the Society since the last meeting of the Counsellors.

The following report from the Committee on Publications was then read:

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Counsellors' Meeting, Oct. 5, 1836.

The Committee on Publications respectfully report, that they have received from the Boylston Medical Committee of Harvard University a recommendation to publish for the Society three Dissertations on the external means of exploring the condition of the internal organs, to which that committee have awarded premiums the present year. This recommendation was accompanied by the liberal proposition, on the part of the gentleman, who first made the suggestion, to be himself at the expense of publishing an edition sufficiently numerous to furnish a copy gratuitously to each Fellow and retired member of the Society, and also to present a copy, in the name of the Society, to every other respectable physician in the Commonwealth. As a compliance with the recommendation involved the Society in no responsibility, but would merely enable its Fellows to receive the benefit designed by so generous a donation, your Committee did not feel themselves called upon to wait for the instructions of the Counsellors in regard to it. They have proceeded to execute the trust thus assigned to them. The Dissertations are already printed, and will in a few days be ready for distribution. They constitute the *seventh* volume, in the Society's series, of the Library of Practical Medicine; the second volume of Dr. Bowditch's translation of Louis on Typhus, being the sixth.

The committee respectfully recommend, that the Librarian of the Society be instructed to receive the volumes, and distribute them to the Fellows and others, agreeably to the design of the liberal donor.

All which is respectfully submitted.

E. HALE, JR.,	}	<i>Committee on Publications.</i>
S. D. TOWNSEND,		
JOHN WARE,		

Voted, That the report be accepted.

Voted, That the thanks of the Counsellors be presented to the liberal donor of this benefaction.

Dr. Hayward, chairman of the Committee appointed to inquire and report whether any facts have come to their knowledge of infractions of the eighth By-Law, relating to consultations, made the following report:

The Committee appointed at the stated meeting of the Counsellors, in May last, "to inquire and report whether any facts have come to their knowledge of the violation of the eighth By-Law, relating to consultations," &c., respectfully ask leave to report,—

That, at the same meeting, a communication was received from a Fellow of the Society, charging ten individuals with a violation of this By-Law, and one with a violation of the ninth By-Law. This communication was referred to the same Committee; and the Recording Secretary, at the request of the Committee, immediately after the meeting, addressed a letter to the gentleman who brought forward the charges, informing him of the appointment of the Committee, and of their readiness to receive any evidence or facts, of which he might be in possession, that would support the charges that he had advanced.

No reply, however, was made to this; and the Committee, after waiting several weeks, directed their chairman to make another application for the same purpose, which was accordingly done on the 8th of August. But no answer was received to this note till October 3d; and this was merely a repetition of the charges, with the names of the individuals, and of those of two or three not in the first letter. No evidence whatever was furnished.

The Committee cannot forbear the expression of their surprise, that any Fellow of this Society should make charges of a grave character against other Fellows,—and some of them, too, among the most respectable members of our institution,—without being prepared to exhibit the proofs on which he grounded his accusations. The Committee did not feel that they had a right to call upon the individuals thus arraigned, as they were not in possession of the slightest evidence of their guilt; and even if they did not believe them innocent,—though they certainly had no reason to think them

otherwise,—it would be a novel mode of conducting an investigation of this character, to call upon the accused to furnish evidence that might lead to their own conviction. The Committee would further remark, that one of the individuals, thus accused, is not a Fellow of the Society,—having withdrawn from it many years since,—and that his name has been inadvertently continued on the list. They would also observe, that the Fellow who is charged with violating the 9th By-Law, by recommending a patent medicine, however widely he may have deviated from the spirit of the law, has not, as will be seen by referring to it, violated its letter.

And here the Committee might close their report, by remarking, that “no facts have come to their knowledge of the violation of the 8th By-Law,” which require the animadversion of the Society; but before doing this, they would respectfully invite the attention of the Counsellors to one or two points connected with this subject.

In the first place, then, they would remark, that there is a palpable difference in the conduct of those individuals, who, by accident, inadvertence, or from a belief that some good may be effected by it, have occasionally met and consulted with irregular practitioners, and the course of those, who at all times consult with such practitioners, knowing their true standing, and at the same time avow their determination of persisting in such practices.

It no doubt occasionally happens to a Fellow of this Society to be called to a patient, and to find, on his arrival, that he is in the charge of an irregular practitioner, to whom the physician is, perhaps, for the first time introduced. He may be unacquainted with his true standing, and the time may be too precious to be lost in inquiries on the subject; or, if he knows, the situation of the patient may be such, that, by refusing to act, and to act promptly, he would be justly liable to the charge of inhumanity.

Another case, and one where the course is still less doubtful, may occur. A Fellow of the Society may be called to meet a physician of good education, but who has perhaps so recently come into the State, that there has not been time for

him to be licensed by the Censors, or who, for some other cause, is not in good standing with our institution. He may be ignorant of the laws, and unacquainted with the method which he should adopt to obtain fellowship. It would be obviously unjust, to class such an individual with ignorant and designing empirics; and the proper course for a member of our Society seems, to your Committee, to be, to meet such a person, and to explain to him the nature of our institution, the object of its laws, and the mode of admission, and thus induce him to attach himself to it, and in this way give additional efficiency to our rules.

Both of the supposed cases were more likely to happen formerly, when the Society was small and its influence inconsiderable, than at present; and much more likely to occur in the country, where the practitioners are remote from each other, than in the larger towns, where, from their proximity, the character and standing of every one must be known.

Though the Committee have made these suggestions to palliate occurrences of the kind alluded to, they are at the same time of opinion, that they should be avoided at all times, as far as possible; and they deem it to be the duty of every Fellow of the Society scrupulously to adhere to the spirit of its laws. They cannot persuade themselves, that the cases, which would justify a deviation from them, can be of frequent occurrence.

The Committee would remark, in the second place, that there seems to be a misapprehension, in the minds of some, as to the object of our laws relating to consultations. There are many who affect to think, and there are perhaps a few who actually believe, that these laws are made for the benefit of the profession, when, in truth, as the least reflection will show, their sole purpose is to promote the good of the community,—to guard the public against ignorant, designing, and unprincipled pretenders. Medical men alone are competent to judge of the qualifications of the practitioners of the healing art; and it is their duty to point out a course of education to be pursued by those who intend to enter on this arduous and responsible calling. There surely can be no

ground of complaint, on the part of candidates for the medical profession, provided that it be neither difficult nor burdensome to comply with the requirements to enter it. Now it is notorious, that this is not the case in this Commonwealth, and consequently, there is nothing exclusive in the character of our regulations.

Having established, then, a course of education, and fixed the manner by which the parties are to give evidence that they have successfully pursued it, the profession are bound, by the duty which they owe to their fellow-citizens, to say to all who do not choose to pursue this course and give this evidence, that, if they undertake to practise the healing art, they will hold no professional communion with them. We have then discharged our duty to the community, and if they employ such unlicensed persons, they do it on their own responsibility; no blame can rest on us.

The regulations of our Society, in relation to those who have been educated out of the State, are neither oppressive nor unreasonable, as they have sometimes been represented, but are, on the contrary, of the most liberal character. They require only that such persons should give evidence of having gone through a course of study equal to that which is demanded by our own laws. The diplomas of all respectable institutions are received as evidence of this course, provided these institutions require as long a period of study, before the examination is made, as is done here. It may not, perhaps, be necessary to require more than this; but less could not be demanded, in justice to the public.

This, then, is all that our Society undertakes to do, in relation to practitioners of medicine in this Commonwealth. In what consists the oppression? Where is the monopoly? What are the exclusive privileges we enjoy? We merely point out a course of medical study, which we deem it necessary, for the welfare and safety of the community, for every practitioner of medicine to pursue; and if he does not choose to give evidence that he has done this, we say that we will hold no professional intercourse with him. We do nothing more; and if he be not successful in his profession, the fault may be in him; it certainly is not with us.

Can we do less than this? Should we not be wanting in our duty to the public and ourselves, if we neglected to do it? Would it be right, by consulting with such individuals, to declare to the world, as we certainly should do, that we believed them to be well-educated, when, to say the least, we have no evidence of the fact? Who has a right to complain of our course? Not our fellow-citizens; for they can employ whom they please; and the practitioners, who will not conform to our rules as to a proper course of study, cannot blame us, if we will not receive them as associates and fellow-laborers.

To deny us the privilege of determining with whom and on what terms we will hold professional intercourse, would be a gross violation of our rights, to which we ought not, and to which we never could, submit. It is an interference with our personal concerns that cannot be tolerated.

The Committee deem it proper to remark, in conclusion, that the course which this Society has adopted, in relation to consultations, seems to be fully authorized, if not actually contemplated, by the Legislature, in the act of incorporation, passed in 1781. By this act, it will be perceived, that the President and Fellows, or such officers as they may appoint, are authorized to examine candidates for the practice of physic and surgery, as to their skill in their profession; and if the officers thus appointed shall refuse to examine any candidates who may offer themselves, each and every one of the examiners shall be subject to a fine of *one hundred pounds*, to be recovered by the candidate, for his own use, in any court in this Commonwealth. And in the same act, the following forcible language is used, showing very strikingly the sentiments of the Legislature on this subject: "It is clearly of importance, that a just discrimination should be made between such as are duly educated, and properly qualified for the duties of their profession, and those who may ignorantly and wickedly administer medicine, whereby the health and lives of many valuable individuals may be endangered, or perhaps lost to the community."

It is believed, that our Society will be ever anxious to

make this discrimination, and that the regulations formed for this purpose, having no private or personal object in view, will be complied with uniformly and with cheerfulness by all its members. If this be done in good faith, it cannot be doubted, that the public good will be essentially promoted, and that our institution will be regarded with increased favor by the community.

Which is respectfully submitted, by

GEO. HAYWARD, }
E. HALE, JR., } *Committee.*
EBEN. ALDEN, }

Boston, Oct. 5, 1836.

Voted, That the report be accepted and consigned to the Committee on Publications, to be published in such medical journals, or other manner, as they shall see fit; and that it be distributed to all the members of this Society, and all other practitioners of medicine, and all medical students within this Commonwealth.

Voted, That the admission of physicians educated within this State to the privileges of license and fellowship with the Society, be referred to a committee of five, to report at the next meeting of the Counsellors.

The President, with Drs. Peirson, Walker, Strong, and Doane, were appointed the Committee.

Meeting dissolved.

FEBRUARY MEETING.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's Room, February 1, 1837, at 11 o'clock.

The records of the last meeting were read.

The President, chairman of the Committee to whom was referred the subject of the admission of physicians educated within this State to the privileges of license and fellowship, reported; which report having been fully discussed, it was

Voted, To postpone the consideration thereof to an adjourned meeting.

Voted, That the report be re-committed to the same Committee.

Voted, That an adjourned meeting be held on the 22d inst.

ADJOURNED MEETING.

An adjourned meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's Room, February 22d, 1837, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Drs. S. D. Townsend and W. Strong were chosen a Committee to examine the Treasurer's accounts.

Drs. J. Jeffries and G. B. Doane were chosen a Committee to examine the Library and Cabinet.

Several resolutions, relating to small pox and vaccination, were presented by Dr. J. C. Warren.

Voted, That they be referred to a Committee of three, to report thereon at the next meeting of the Counsellors.

Drs. J. C. Warren, J. Jackson, and R. Wyman, were chosen.

The Recording Secretary read a letter from Dr. R. Worthington, relating to the Berkshire District Medical Society, announcing its dissolution.

Dr. Shattuck, chairman of the Committee to whom was re-committed the report on the admission of physicians educated within this State to the privileges of license and fellowship with this Society, made to the Counsellors at the meeting on the 1st inst., reported the same without amendment.

An amendment was then offered by Dr. Hale. After a full discussion of the subject, it was

Voted, That the action on the report be postponed to the next regular meeting of the Counsellors.

Voted, That a Committee of five be chosen to prepare and present a memorial to the General Court, upon the Act now pending before them, with a view to the establishment of an independent Board of Overseers for the Berkshire Medical Institution.

Drs. J. Jackson, E. Reynolds, S. D. Townsend, Z. B. Adams, and D. Osgood, were chosen.

SPECIAL MEETING.

May 17, 1837.

A special meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's Room, Pearl street, this day, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The records of the last meeting were read.

The Committee, appointed at the last meeting of the Counsellors, to prepare and present a memorial to the General Court, made the following report:

The Committee, appointed at the last meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, to prepare and present a memorial to the General Court, upon the Act then pending before them, relative to the Berkshire Medical Institution, make the following report of their doings:

On the third day after their appointment, the Committee presented the memorial, of which a copy accompanies this report. Shortly afterwards, the chairman of the Committee was requested to attend a meeting of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, to whom the memorial had been referred. Dr. Childs having left the city, Mr. Rockwell, of Pittsfield, Speaker of the House, attended in behalf of the Berkshire Medical Institution. The views of the Society having been stated in full to the Judiciary Committee, and their reasons for wishing the overseers of the Berkshire Medical Institution to be constituted somewhat differently from the mode proposed in the pending bill, Mr. Rockwell made no objections to the same; and both he and the Committee intimated, that they regarded those views as reasonable, and would be glad to modify the bill in question so as to adopt them. This was done, and an Act was passed, a copy of which accompanies this report. The Committee trust and believe, that this law will be satisfactory to the Society, inasmuch as its provisions are such as this Society has always desired to have adopted, in regard to the Berkshire Medical Institution.

The Committee might here close their report. But they will venture to go beyond their commission so far, as to propose some resolutions, the adoption of which will, they trust, remove all cause of difficulty in respect to the Institution beforenamed; and they propose, that the Counsellors recommend the adoption of the same by the Society:

Resolved, That those persons who have heretofore been graduated Doctors of Medicine, by the authority of the Berkshire Medical Institution, shall be entitled to enter this Society as Fellows, upon signing the By-Laws, in the same manner as the medical graduates of Harvard College.

Resolved, That all persons who shall hereafter be graduated Doctors of Medicine, by the Berkshire Medical Institution, shall be regarded as having the same rights and privileges as the medical graduates of Harvard College, in respect to this Society.

All which is respectfully submitted, by

JAMES JACKSON,	} Committee.
S. D. TOWNSEND,	
Z. B. ADAMS,	
D. OSGOOD,	
EDW. REYNOLDS,	

Boston, April 27, 1837.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled:

In compliance with directions of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, the subscribers respectfully beg leave to present to you a memorial in respect to a bill, now or lately before you, entitled "an Act in addition to an Act to incorporate the Berkshire Medical Institution."

To this bill, your memorialists believe there are objections, which may not have been adverted to. To show these objections, and the occasion which the Massachusetts Medical Society have to point them out, it seems necessary to go into some historical details. From these details, it will appear, likewise, why this memorial has been presented after the bill before mentioned has passed to so late a stage.

The Berkshire Medical Institution was incorporated by an Act, dated Jan. 24, 1823. To the passage of this Act the Massachusetts Medical Society made no objection.

In the following year, that Institution petitioned the General Court to grant to its medical graduates the same privileges as belonged to the medical graduates of Harvard College. The most important of these privileges, perhaps, was, that the medical graduates of Harvard College were acknowledged and received by the Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society as regular practitioners of medicine and surgery. At that period, this Society objected to the grant of privileges to the medical graduates of the Berkshire Medical Institution, as it then stood. The Society were permitted to appear before a committee of the Legislature, by a committee of their own; and it was then urged by the Society, that the Berkshire Medical Institution ought not to be clothed with the same powers as were possessed by Harvard College, unless they were placed under the same restrictions and oversight as that College was; that, otherwise, the public would not have the same security against the abuse of those powers in one case, as in the other. It is well known to your honorable bodies, that the Overseers of Harvard College have a control over all the doings of its President and Fellows; so that, if any abuses of power by the President and Fellows be suggested, cognizance may be taken of the subject immediately; and that if any be discovered, they may be corrected.

It is well known, that the Overseers of the College are so constituted, as that they are a perfectly independent body, not in any way under the control of the President and Fellows whom they are to oversee. On the other hand, the Trustees of the Berkshire Medical Institution were, and are, enabled by law to elect the members of their own Board, without being subject in this, or in any of their acts, to any body of visitors or overseers. When, therefore, these Trustees prayed for new powers, the Massachusetts Medical Society protested against the grant of them, unless there were placed over these Trustees an independent Board of Overseers. It

was urged, by the Massachusetts Medical Society, that it was not safe to place reliance on the characters of the respectable gentlemen who then constituted the Board of Trustees of the Berkshire Medical Institution; that the corporation, which they formed, was a perpetual one, and liable to change in character, as it must change its members; that colleges in Great Britain had notoriously given degrees, for money, to men whom they never saw; and that similar abuses might in time be practised by institutions in this country, if not duly guarded against; and that, on the other hand, the Berkshire Medical Institution would be regarded as more respectable, and would inspire more confidence at all times, if an independent Board of Overseers should be attached to it.

The only effect of the representations of the Massachusetts Medical Society, at the time above referred to, as the subscribers believe, was, that in the Act of February 21, 1824, there was reserved by the Legislature a right to appoint a Board of Overseers at any future time.

Believing, from the considerations above referred to, that the public welfare, and the honor of the medical profession, had not been duly secured by the Acts in relation to the Berkshire Medical Institution, the Massachusetts Medical Society have never been willing to perform any act by which to countenance that Institution. This course they have pursued with reluctance, and from a sense of duty only. They have not and do not prefer any charges against the conduct of that Institution; they have never insinuated, nor do your memorialists now insinuate, that there have been any abuses of power by it; they seek only that such abuses be guarded against hereafter, in a manner proper in regard to a perpetual corporation, and as they are guarded against in the case of Harvard College.

Having thus exposed the general principles on which the Massachusetts Medical Society has acted in relation to the Berkshire Medical Institution, your memorialists proceed to state the facts, which will explain the late period of the application to the Legislature in the present case, and the immediate object of their application.

On the first day of the present month, the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society held a stated meeting. At this meeting, they were informed, verbally, by a distinguished member of the Berkshire Medical Institution, also one of the Counsellors, that a bill was then before the Legislature, respecting the conferring medical degrees by the Trustees of the Berkshire Medical Institution; and that he had made such arrangements, as that there would be attached to this bill a provision, that a Board of Overseers of that Institution should be created, with powers similar to those of the Overseers of Harvard College. He stated further, that, in accordance with a suggestion which had been made to him, he would propose, that the Board of Overseers should consist of the Senators of the four western districts, and of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society in the same districts, provided there should be never more than twenty Counsellors elected by the Society in those districts. Such were the relations of the gentleman who gave this information to the parties concerned, that there was no reasonable doubt, that the measure proposed at his instance would be adopted, if the Massachusetts Medical Society made no objection. So far from making an objection, the Counsellors of the Society manifested the greatest satisfaction in the measure proposed; although no formal act was performed by them, as none seemed to be called for.

The Counsellors adjourned their meeting, on the day above mentioned, to Wednesday, the 22d day of February, with a hope, that, before that day, the measures proposed would be adopted by the Legislature.

On the 22d of February, the Counsellors learned, and most of them for the first time, that a bill had passed the Senate and House of Representatives, through all but its last stage, in which a Board of Overseers for the Berkshire Medical Institution was provided; but that it was made up in a manner very different from that which had been suggested to them at their meeting three weeks before.

It is to the constitution of this Board, that your memorialists wish now to call the attention of your honorable bodies.

The Trustees of the Berkshire Medical Institution are, or

may be, at their own pleasure, fifteen in number. They constitute the body to be supervised or overseen.

In the bill before you, to which reference has been made, these Trustees constitute a part of the Board of Overseers; and in the first instance, they, with the honorable Senators of the four western districts, and the President and two Secretaries of the Massachusetts Medical Society, constitute the whole Board of Overseers. It is plain, then, that *these very Trustees will constitute the major part of the body, who are to act as overseers of themselves*. The bill provides, indeed, for an addition to the Overseers; but it does not require, that such an addition shall be made, nor that, being made, it shall be maintained, when the persons so added may die or resign. The bill only provides, that a number, not exceeding fifteen, shall be added to the members before designated, *if these members shall appoint them*. If the appointment be made, it is plain, that the influence in the appointment is lodged entirely in the Trustees; so that the Board, thus constituted, cannot, in any view, be regarded as an independent Board, similar to that of Harvard College.

To these remarks, it may be added, that the bill referred to makes no provision for the time or place of the first meeting of the Board of Overseers, nor for its organization.

Your memorialists wish further to add, that, if any change be made in the constitution of the Board of Overseers, in correspondence with the views here presented, it does not appear to them important, that medical men should be selected; it is important only that the selection be such as to leave the Overseers independent of the Trustees. Medical gentlemen might take more interest in the subject than others; but, on the other hand, their avocations are necessarily such, that they would be less likely than others to attend the meetings of the Overseers.

All which is respectfully submitted, by

(Signed)	JAMES JACKSON,	} Committee.
	S. D. TOWNSEND,	
	Z. B. ADAMS,	
	D. OSGOOD,	
	EDW. REYNOLDS,	

Boston, Feb. 24, 1837.

An Act in addition to an Act to incorporate the Berkshire Medical Institution.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows: SECTION 1. All medical degrees conferred upon the students in the Berkshire Medical Institution, may be conferred by the President, Trustees, and Faculty, under the same rules and restrictions as are adopted and recognized in conferring degrees of the same nature by Harvard College.

SECT. 2. Any person who shall be graduated a doctor in medicine in the Berkshire Medical Institution, shall be entitled to all the rights, privileges and immunities granted to the medical graduates of Harvard College.

SECT. 3. There shall be a Board of Overseers of the said Berkshire Medical Institution, which shall consist of the Trustees of the said Institution, the President and Secretaries of the Massachusetts Medical Society, the Senators of the Commonwealth, from the four western districts thereof, for the time *ex officio*, and the following persons and their successors to be chosen as hereinafter provided, to wit: Edward A. Newton, Julius Rockwell and Robert Campbell of Pittsfield; Charles Sedgwick and George I. Tucker of Lenox; Henry L. Sabin of Williamstown; Asa G. Welch of Lee; James C. Alvord of Greenfield; Thomas Longley of Hawley; Solomon Reed of Rowe; Elisha Leffingwell of Montague; Joseph H. Flint and Elisha Mather of Northampton; Elisha Edwards of Southampton; Gardiner Dorrance of Amherst; George Ashmun of Springfield; and William G. Bates of Westfield;—which Board shall meet each year at the annual commencement of the said Institution, and at such other times, and upon such notice, as they may prescribe; and ten members of said Board shall constitute a quorum.

SECT. 4. The said Board of Overseers shall have the same power and authority, in relation to said Institution, as belong to the Overseers of Harvard College in relation to the said College; and any vacancy that may occur therein, by the death or resignation of members, not designated by their office, shall be filled at any legal meeting thereof by the

Board, provided, that, in such election, the Trustees of said Institution shall not be entitled to vote.

SECT. 5. The Legislature shall have the power, at any time, to alter or repeal this Act.

SECT. 6. An Act in addition to "an Act regulating the practice of Physic and Surgery," approved by the Governor, on the twenty-first day of February, in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, is hereby repealed.

Voted, That the Counsellors recommend the adoption of the above resolutions by the Society.

Voted, To accept the report of the Committee.

Voted, To recommend to the Society, that the eighth and fifty-third By-Laws be amended, by adding to each, after the words, "Harvard University," the words, "or of the Berkshire Medical Institution."

Voted, That the Counsellors recommend the adoption of the following, to be added to the By-Laws, and numbered LVI:

If any licentiate of this Society, or doctor of medicine, graduated either at Harvard University or at the Berkshire Medical Institution, shall neglect to obtain admission as a Fellow of this Society, according to the method of the 53d By-Law, for one year after he is entitled to the same, he shall be deemed an irregular practitioner; nor shall he afterwards be admitted as a Fellow of the Society, unless he make a representation of his case in writing to the Counsellors, and satisfy them that he has had good reasons for not pursuing the steps necessary for his admission as a Fellow within the time above specified. In every such case, the Counsellors shall decide by vote, whether the reasons are or are not satisfactory, and the result shall be communicated to the applicant by the Corresponding Secretary; whereupon, if the result be favorable to the applicant, and he sign the By-Laws, according to the 53d By-Law, within three months, he shall be admitted as a Fellow; and not otherwise.

Voted, That the Honorary Members of the Society be enti-

tled to the original communications of the Society, on application to the Librarian.

Voted, To dissolve the meeting.

JUNE MEETING.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's Room, Pearl street, June 1, 1837, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The Corresponding Secretary read reports of the Censors of the First and Second Medical Districts.

Voted, To proceed to the election of officers for the ensuing year.

Drs. Willard of Uxbridge, Green of Lowell, and Adams of Boston, were appointed Scrutineers.

The following gentlemen were elected to the several offices, viz.:

GEORGE C. SHATTUCK, M. D., *President*.

NATHANIEL MILLER, M. D., *Vice President*.

ENOCH HALE, M. D., *Corresponding Secretary*.

JOHN HOMANS, M. D., *Recording Secretary*.

WALTER CHANNING, M. D., *Treasurer*.

DAVID OSGOOD, M. D., *Librarian*.

CENSORS,

FOR THE FIRST MEDICAL DISTRICT, AND FOR THE SOCIETY AT
LARGE.

William J. Walker, Abel L. Peirson, John Ware, Edward Reynolds, Jr., Woodbridge Strong.

FOR THE SECOND MEDICAL DISTRICT.

John Green, Benjamin F. Heywood, Charles W. Wilder, Benjamin Pond, William Workman.

FOR THE THIRD MEDICAL DISTRICT.

Stephen W. Williams, Elisha Mather, Atherton Clark, Bela B. Jones, David Bemis.

FOR THE FOURTH MEDICAL DISTRICT.

Henry H. Childs, William H. Tyler, Alfred Perry, Asa G. Welch, Charles Worthington.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS.

Enoch Hale, John Ware, Solomon D. Townsend.

COMMITTEE ON RESIGNATIONS.

Walter Channing, Zabdiel B. Adams, John Jeffries.

Ebenezer Alden, M. D., of Randolph, was chosen to deliver the next annual discourse.

The reports of the Treasurer and of the Auditing Committee were then read and accepted.

Voted, That the town of Middleton, not now included within the limits of any District Medical Society, be annexed to the Essex South District Medical Society.

Voted, That the Committee on Publications be authorized to publish a revised edition of the By-Laws and Orders, with a corrected list of Fellows of the Society.

Voted, That the same Committee publish the amendments adopted since 1832, with a corrected list of Fellows, to be distributed to the Fellows of the Society.

Dr. John C. Warren, chairman of the Committee, appointed at the meeting of the Counsellors in February last, to whom were referred several resolutions relating to small pox and vaccination, read a report, accompanied with the two following resolutions:

Resolved, That it is desirable, to effect such a modification of the laws, on the subject of small pox, as would allow persons affected with this disease to remain in their own houses.

Resolved, That the Counsellors of this Society feel undiminished confidence in the influence of vaccination in preventing the contagion of small pox.

Voted, That the foregoing resolutions be adopted.

Voted, That the Committee on Publications select and publish an eighth volume of the Library of Practical Medicine, provided, that the expense do not exceed six hundred dollars, to be distributed to the Fellows of the Society at the next annual meeting, on the same terms as were established for the first volume, by the report accepted February 1, 1831.

Provided, that the Committee shall be authorized to issue the eighth volume at any time during the current year that

they shall think proper, to be distributed to such Fellows of the Society as shall pay their assessments in advance for the next year.

Voted, That the Librarian be authorized to sell the sixth volume of the Library of Practical Medicine to such Fellows as shall hereafter be admitted to the Society, one copy to each, for \$1 25.

Voted, That the meeting be dissolved.

Dr. John B. Kittredge of Framingham has had leave to resign fellowship.

S. P. Hildreth, M. D., of Marietta, Ohio, has been elected an Honorary Member of the Society.

The following gentlemen have been admitted in course Fellows of the Society, viz.:

Chester Parkhurst, Salem; Samuel Fish, Boston; Marcellus Bowen, South Boston; Luther Clark, Boston; Frederick Allen, West Roxbury; Artemas Z. Brown, Hubbardston; Alonzo Chapin, Boston; James A. Stetson, Quincy; Herman B. Inches, Boston; George A. Bethune, Boston; Henry G. Wiley, Boston; George Stearns, Groton; Daniel W. Davis, Wellfleet; William D. Peck, Sterling; Abel H. Wilder, Groton; Amos B. Bancroft, Groton; Charles Chase, Chelsea; Bennett Wing, West Barnstable; Elijah W. Carpenter, Upton; Charles H. Pierce, Boston; C. Minot Weld, Boston; John W. Gorham, Boston; Moody Mansur, Lowell; Jacob Hayes, East Boston; George Hubbard, Boston; Samuel West, Jr., New Bedford; Daniel Parker, Billerica; Jeffries Wyman, Boston; John H. Wright, Northampton; Henry Orcutt, Westhampton.

The following gentlemen have been elected during the year, and, having declared their assent to the By-Laws, have become Fellows of the Society, viz.:

Benajah Ticknor, Charlestown; Simeon E. Strong, Ipswich; Philander H. Thomas, Hancock; Enoch Pierce, Pittsfield; Worham L. Fitch, Otis.

The following gentlemen have been elected Fellows, but

have not yet signified their acceptance of fellowship and their assent to the By-Laws, viz.:

Robert Robinson, Henry P. Phillips, Snell Babbitt, George Hill, Orlando Long, Elisha L. Hawkes, Thomas A. Brayton, North Adams; George L. Barker, South Adams; Lansing J. Cobb, Cheshire; Henry L. Sabin, Ebenezer Emmons, James Smedley, Williamstown; Robert Campbell, Oliver S. Root, Thomas A. Lee, Lewis Wheeler, William Colman, Pittsfield; Stephen Reed, Richmond; Thomas Minor, Dudley Leavitt, West Stockbridge; Benjamin F. Kittredge, Hinsdale; Jonas Brown, Peru; Vassal White, Chester J. Frieland, Becket; William Bennet, Otis; William Sabin, Tyringham; Corridon Giteau, Charles McAllister, Lee; Aretas Rising, Scoville, New Marlborough; Warren, Great Barrington; Silas R. Kellogg, Oliver Peck, Sheffield; Henry D. Chapman, Egremont.

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APPENDIX FOR 1838.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Boston, May 30.

THE Annual Meeting of the MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY was held at the Society's Hall, Athenæum building, Pearl street, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The records of the last meeting of the Society, and of the proceedings of the Counsellors during the past year, were read.

The Recording Secretary reported the names of those who have become Fellows or Honorary Members of the Society during the past year.

Voted, To proceed to the election of Counsellors.

Drs. Bemis of Springfield, Heywood of Worcester, Stimpson of Dedham, Dalton of Lowell, Hurd of Charlestown, Hooker of East Cambridge, Tuck of Barnstable, and Roby of Boston, were appointed Scrutineers.

The following gentlemen were elected in the several departments, viz.:

First Department. SUFFOLK.—Drs. James Jackson, Benjamin Shurtleff, John C. Warren, John Randall, George C. Shattuck, Walter Channing, Jacob Bigelow, George Hayward, Enoch Hale, Solomon D. Townsend, John Ware, Zabdiel B. Adams, David Osgood, Edward Reynolds, Jr., John Homans, Woodbridge Strong, John Jeffries, George B. Doane, Winslow Lewis, Jr., George W. Otis, Samuel Morrill, Jerome V. C. Smith.

Second Department. ESSEX.—Drs. Joseph Kittredge, Jeremiah Spofford, Abel L. Peirson, Andrew Nichols, Edward L. Coffin, Samuel Johnson, Richard S. Spofford, Calvin Briggs, Dean Robinson, Jonathan G. Johnson, Edward A. Holyoke, Wyatt C. Boyden, Rufus Longley, George Choate, George Osborn, Ebenezer Hunt.

Third Department. MIDDLESEX.—Drs. Thomas Bucklin, John Walton, Abraham R. Thompson, Timothy Wellington, Zadok Howe, William J. Walker, John C. Dalton, Josiah Bartlett, Daniel Swan, John O. Green, Joshua Green, Elisha Bartlett, Anson Hooker, Nehemiah Cutter.

Fourth Department. WORCESTER.—Drs. Stephen Bachelor, John Green, Edward Flint, Benjamin F. Heywood, Charles W. Wilder, Amos Parker, George Willard, John Starkweather, John G. Metcalf, Pierson T. Kendall, John S. Butler, Joseph Stone.

Fifth Department. HAMPSHIRE, &c.—Drs. Joseph H. Flint, Alpheus F. Stone, Stephen W. Williams, Eli Hall, Elisha Mather, Bela B. Jones, David Bemis.

Sixth Department. BERKSHIRE.—Drs. Henry H. Childs, William H. Tyler, Asa G. Welch, Royal Fowler, Robert Worthington, Alfred Perry, Hubbard Bartlett.

Seventh Department. NORFOLK.—Drs. Nathaniel Miller, John Bartlett, Samuel Bugbee, Robert Thaxter, Jeremy Stimpson, Rufus Wyman, Ebenezer Alden, Noah Fifield.

Eighth Department. PLYMOUTH.—Drs. Hector Orr, Nathan Hayward, Ezekiel Thaxter, Paul L. Nichols, Noah Whitman, William Gordon.

Ninth Department. BRISTOL.—Drs. Alexander Read, William C. Whittredge, Andrew Mackie, Caleb Swan, Menzies R. Randall, William A. Gordon.

Tenth Department. BARNSTABLE.—Drs. Aaron Cornish, Joseph Sampson, Paul Swift, Henry Tuck.

The Treasurer presented and read his annual reports.

From the Report of Receipts and Expenditures, it appeared, that the balance on hand last year was \$535 70

Cash received of Fellows at annual meeting,	\$594	
“ “ “ at other times,	174	
		768 00
“ “ Treasurer of Worcester District,	73 00	
“ “ of Essex South District,	46 00	
		\$1422 70
By expenditures during the year,		1223 61
		\$199 09

From the Report on the Permanent Fund, it appears, that the whole is invested in the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, in three policies, and, with interest to January 1, 1838, amounts to \$6061 30.

The following Report was then read.

The Committee appointed to examine the accounts of the Treasurer, have attended to that duty and respectfully report, that the permanent fund, on the first day of January, 1838, amounted to the sum of \$6061 30:

That the account current has been accurately kept, cast and duly vouched and that the balance in the Treasury now is \$199 09.

(Signed,)

WILLIAM J. WALKER,
WOODBRIDGE STRONG.

Boston, May 29, 1838.

Voted, To accept the Report of the Treasurer and that of the Auditing Committee.

A Report, adopted by the Counsellors, in February, was read, together with the following vote:

Voted, That the Counsellors recommend to the Society at the next Annual Meeting, that the 36th By-Law be amended, by inserting after the words “in every case,” the following, “except in the cases described in the 39th By-Law,” and that the 39th By-Law be amended, by omitting the words “after the payment of the fee as prescribed in the 36th By-Law.”

Voted, To adopt the recommendations of the Counsellors,

contained in the vote passed in February last, and to amend the by-laws accordingly.

Dr. G. Hayward offered the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted.

The Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society, feeling undiminished confidence in the protective power of Cow Pox, have learnt with great satisfaction, that the Legislature of this Commonwealth, at their late session, have repealed all the sections of the Revised Statutes relating to the Small Pox. This measure, however, makes it important that means should be adopted to render more general the practice of vaccination, so as to give our fellow-citizens the best possible security against a loathsome and oftentimes fatal disease.

It is, therefore, *Resolved*, That this Society will, at the Annual Meeting in May, furnish to all its Fellows who may apply for it, vaccine virus, free of expense; and the Counsellors are requested to adopt measures to carry this resolution into effect.

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of every Fellow of this Society, to vaccinate gratuitously in each Monday in the month of June annually, all persons who may come to him for that purpose, and who are unable to pay the usual fee.

Resolved, That the Recording Secretary be directed to give publicity to these resolutions, by inserting them in the newspapers in which the advertisements of the Society are printed, and in any other way that the Counsellors may think proper.

At 1 o'clock, Ebenezer Alden, M. D., read an interesting discourse on the Origin and Progress of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. Alden for his very able, interesting and eloquent discourse.

Voted, That a Committee of one Counsellor from each department be appointed to consider and propose a plan for collecting the dues to the Society, and to advise the Treasurer in regard to the same.

Drs. James Jackson, Joseph Kittredge, Thomas Bucklin, Stephen Bachelder, Joseph H. Flint, Henry H. Childs, Nathaniel Miller, Hector Orr, Alexander Read and Joseph Sampson were chosen.

Voted, To dissolve the meeting.

Attest, JOHN HOMANS, *Recording Secretary*.

The Fellows of the Society then proceeded to Faneuil Hall, and dined together, to the number of two hundred and thirty-eight.

Proceedings of the Counsellors.

OCTOBER MEETING, 1837.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's Room, Pearl street, on Wednesday, October 4th, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Records of the last meeting were read.

The Corresponding Secretary read a Report from the Censors of the Second Medical District.

Voted, To proceed to the election of Fellows and Honorary Members.

Luther V. Bell, M. D., was elected a Fellow.

The ballot was then severally taken for Charles Hastings, M. D., of Worcester, England, Thomas Minor, M. D., of Middletown, Ct., Usher Parsons, M. D., of Providence, R. I., who had been regularly nominated as candidates for Honorary Membership, and they were elected.

Voted, To dissolve the meeting.

Attest, JOHN HOMANS, *Recording Secretary*.

FEBRUARY MEETING, 1838.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's Room in Pearl street, on Wednesday, February 7, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Records of the last meeting were read.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from the Secretary of the Worcester District Medical Society, communicating the proceedings of an adjourned meeting, and a list of the officers chosen for the current year; and also the following extracts from the records of an adjourned meeting of said District Society, held October 4, 1837, viz.:

"Voted, That the Counsellors of this District be respectfully requested to call the attention of the Council of the State Medical Society, to the expediency of recommending to the State Society the repeal of the 39th and 56th By-Laws of said Society."

Voted, To refer this communication to a Committee, consisting of Drs. James Jackson, George Willard and Jno. O. Green, who subsequently presented the following report.

The Committee appointed, by the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, at their present meeting, to consider the application from the Worcester District Medical Society respecting the 39th and 56th By-Laws, having considered the subject, submit the following report:

First, the provision in the 39th By-Law, respecting the fee, appears to the Committee perfectly reasonable; but, on the other hand, it does not appear to them important; and on the score of expediency they recommend the repeal of this provision.

Second, as the 56th By-Law was adopted in consequence of the experience of the Fellows, in some parts of the country, that such a law was needful, and as it appears to the Committee perfectly and highly reasonable, they recommend that it be not repealed nor suspended.

If the Counsellors agree in the opinions expressed in this Report, the following vote will be necessary, viz.:

Voted, That the Counsellors recommend to the Society at their next annual meeting, that the 36th By-Law be amended, by inserting after the words "in every case," the following, "except in the cases described in the 39th By-law;" and that the 39th By-Law be amended by omitting the words,

"after the payment of the fee as prescribed in the 36th By-Law."

All which is respectfully submitted,

JAMES JACKSON, *Chairman.*

By order of the Committee.

Boston, Feb. 7, 1838.

Voted, To accept the Report; and the vote was accordingly adopted.

Voted, To proceed to the election of Honorary Members and Fellows.

Amos Twitchell, M. D., of Keene, N. H., was elected an Honorary Member.

Timothy Kinnister, M. D., of Haverhill, and D. H. S. C. Smith, M. D., of Sutton, were elected Fellows.

Drs. Wm. J. Walker and Woodbridge Strong were appointed a Committee to examine the Treasurer's accounts.

Drs. Samuel Morrill and George W. Otis were appointed a Committee to examine the library and cabinet.

Several resolutions, relating to a general national convention of scientific men in the United States, at specified seasons, for the interchange of opinions, &c., were offered.

Voted, To refer said Resolutions to a Committee of five, to report thereon at the next stated meeting of the Counsellors.

Drs. J. V. C. Smith, Jacob Bigelow, George Hayward, Rufus Wyman and Enoch Hale were appointed said Committee.

Voted, That a Committee be appointed to attend to the subject of procuring a modification of the laws relating to Small Pox.

Drs. George Hayward, J. V. C. Smith, Enoch Hale, Z. B. Adams, Rufus Wyman and W. J. Walker were appointed said Committee.

Voted, That this meeting be dissolved.

Attest, JOHN HOMANS, *Recording Secretary.*

MAY MEETING, 1838.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's Room in Pearl street, May 31st, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The Records of the last meeting were read.

Voted, To proceed to the election of officers for the ensuing year.

Drs. G. W. Otis, Jr., Boston, J. C. Dalton, Lowell, J. S. Butler, Worcester, were appointed Scrutineers.

The following gentlemen were elected to the several offices, viz.:

GEORGE C. SHATTUCK, M. D., *President*.

NATHANIEL MILLER, M. D., *Vice President*.

JOHN HOMANS, M. D., *Corresponding Secretary*.

SOLOMON D. TOWNSEND, M. D., *Recording Secretary*.

WALTER CHANNING, M. D., *Treasurer*.

GEORGE W. OTIS, JR., M. D., *Librarian*.

CENSORS,

FOR THE FIRST MEDICAL DISTRICT, AND FOR THE SOCIETY
AT LARGE.

Enoch Hale, A. L. Peirson, John Ware, Edward Reynolds, Jr., Woodbridge Strong.

FOR THE SECOND MEDICAL DISTRICT.

John Green, Benj. F. Heywood, Charles W. Wilder, Benj. Pond, William Workman.

FOR THE THIRD MEDICAL DISTRICT.

Stephen W. Williams, Elisha Mather, Atherton Clark, Bela B. Jones, David Bemis.

FOR THE FOURTH MEDICAL DISTRICT.

Henry H. Childs, Wm. H. Tyler, Alfred Perry, Asa G. Welch, Charles Worthington.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS.

Enoch Hale, John Ware, John Homans.

COMMITTEE ON RESIGNATIONS.

Walter Channing, Zabdiel B. Adams, John Jeffries.

Enoch Hale, M. D., was chosen to deliver the next annual discourse.

The reports of the Treasurer and of the Auditing Committee were then read and accepted.

Voted, That the Treasurer be authorized to borrow, on the credit of the Society, a sum not exceeding four hundred dollars, for the current expenses of the Society, should the state of the Treasury make a loan necessary.

The Committee on Resignations reported, that the application of Ephraim Stone of Harvard, to resign his fellowship, be granted, which was accepted.

Dr. J. V. C. Smith, Chairman of the Committee to whom was referred the consideration of the propriety of opening a correspondence with other scientific associations in relation to the expediency of organizing a National Society, reported:

That however desirable may be the progress of science and the good fellowship of the learned of this country, yet it appears to this Committee that the objects for which the Massachusetts Medical Society was incorporated, do not require the action of that body on the subject.

Voted, That the report be accepted.

Dr. Jackson, Chairman of the Committee to propose a plan for collecting the outstanding dues of the Society, reported;

1. That there be appointed in each department one or more Counsellors as agents, who shall be authorized to inquire into the circumstances of all such Fellows as are indebted to the Society the amount of nine dollars respectively, and that the said agents shall report to the Counsellors the cases of all such as would be greatly incommoded by the payment of their dues, and that for this purpose the Treasurer give information to each such agent, of the Fellows in his vicinity who are delinquent to the amount above stated.

2. That the Treasurer be authorized to print such circular letters as he may find necessary to obtain payment of arrearages due to this Society.

Voted, That the report be accepted.

The following persons were then appointed agents.

Department No. 1. Dr. Z. B. Adams; 2. Jeremiah Spoford; 3. John C. Dalton; 4. Stephen Bachelder; 5. Joseph H. Flint; 6. Wm. H. Tyler; 7. Jeremy Stimpson; 8. Paul L. Nichols; 9. Alexander Reed; 10. Joseph Sampson.

Dr. Hayward, Chairman of the Committee appointed to procure a modification of the laws relating to Small Pox, presented the following Report.

The Committee appointed at the stated meeting of the Counsellors in February last, to procure a modification of the laws relating to Small Pox, ask leave to report:

That they have attended to the subject, and submit herewith an attested copy of an act of the Legislature which was passed at the last session. This act repeals all the provisions in the Revised Statutes in regard to Small Pox, by which municipal authorities heretofore had power to remove or insulate persons affected with this disease, which prohibited the inoculation for it, and which subjected housekeepers and physicians to a penalty for not informing of cases that came to their knowledge. It is believed that this act was passed with great unanimity in both branches of the Legislature, and the enlightened exertions of two Fellows of our Society who were members of the General Court, and were on the Committee to whom the subject was referred, and one of whom wrote the Report, contributed essentially to this desirable result. This Report, together with one that was made the last year, is herewith submitted. It seems to your Committee that this subject is now placed on a proper footing, and it remains only for our fellow-citizens to avail themselves of the protection which vaccination offers, to enjoy a much greater degree of security than they have hitherto done from the ravages of Small Pox; which is respectfully submitted by

(Signed,)

RUFUS WYMAN,
GEORGE HAYWARD,
ENOCH HALE,
WILLIAM J. WALKER,
J. V. C. SMITH.

Voted, To accept the Report.

Voted, To proceed to ballot for Fellows of the Society.

The following gentlemen were elected; Drs. Alphonso Brooks, Princeton; James M. Smith, Westfield; Delano Pierce, Grafton; Robert Capen, Plymouth.

Placido Portal, M. D., of Palermo, Sicily, was elected an Honorary Member.

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented, by the Corresponding Secretary, to the author of the book on Lithotripsy presented by him to the Society.

Voted, That a Committee be appointed to consider the expediency of providing more convenient rooms for the accommodation of the Society, with authority to engage and furnish the same as they deem it expedient.

Drs. Ware, Hale and Homans were appointed the Committee.

Voted, That the thanks of the Counsellors be presented to Dr. Hale for his long, able, and faithful services as Corresponding Secretary.

Voted, That the thanks of the Counsellors be presented to Dr. Osgood for his faithful and useful services as Librarian.

Voted, To dissolve the meeting.

S. D. TOWNSEND, *Recording Secretary*.

Dr. Ephraim Stone of Harvard has had leave to resign Fellowship.

The following gentlemen have been elected Honorary Members of the Society during the year, viz.:

Thomas Miner, M. D., Middletown, Ct.; Usher Parsons, M. D., Providence, R. I.; Charles Hastings, M. D., Worcester, Eng.; Amos Twitchell, M. D., Keene, N. H.; Placido Portal, M. D., Palermo, Sicily.

The following gentlemen have become Fellows of the Society, since the last publication.

By acceptance of Fellowship after Election.—Snell Babbitt, Adams; George Hill, North Adams; John L. Barker, Adams; Henry L. Sabin, Williamstown; Lewis Wheeler, Pittsfield;

Thomas Miner, West Stockbridge; Dudley Leavitt, West Stockbridge; Benjamin F. Kittredge, Hinsdale; Vassal White, Stockbridge (Curtisville); Millen Sabin, Tyringham; Corridon Guiteau, Lee; Joseph Prescott, Northampton; Luther V. Bell, Charlestown; D. H. S. C. Smith, Sutton; Alphonso Brooks, Princeton; Delano Pierce, Grafton; Robert Capen, Plymouth.

By signing the By-Laws in Course.—Nathan S. Babbitt, Adams; Charles F. Barnard, Dorchester; Moore R. Fletcher, Boston; John H. Dix, Boston; John A. Stevens, Charlestown; Ebenezer S. Phelps, Middleton; Benjamin Haskell, Boston; Levi Gould, Wilmington; Chandler Smith, Worcester; Samuel A. Toothaker, Cambridgeport; Henry Wheatland, Salem; Hanover Dickey, Jr.,* Lowell; George Atwood, Provincetown; Horace Dupee, Jr., Boston; Morrill Wyman, Cambridge; Stephen Salisbury, Boston; Allen C. Fay, Milford; Reuben Spalding, Haverhill; Charles E. Ware, Boston; Richard S. Young, Boston; William P. Richardson, Salem; Benjamin E. Cotting, Boston; Hiram B. Tebbets,* Boston; Jonas H. Lane, Boston; Alexander Poole, Dennis; Levi Hubbard, Medfield; Josiah Lamson, Essex; Jonas Underwood, Andover; Oliver Everett, Sherburne; Henry Ferre, Dalton; James Fiske, Milford; Isaac Palmer, Boston; Erastus D. Miller, Franklin; F. G. F. Miville De Chêne, Springfield; Albert T. Wheelock,* Roxbury; Gurdon R. Parkhurst, Salem; Abel B. Adams, Bedford; Madison Fletcher, Pittsfield; George Hoyt, Athol; Bradford L. Wales, Randolph; Joshua Tucker, Boston; Joseph C. Bachelder, Topsfield; Charles H. Wheelwright, Boston; Gideon F. Barstow, Salem; Simeon Tucker, Jr., Stoughton; William Gallup, Concord; Gilman Kimball, Lowell; Joseph H. Dorr, Boston; Adolphus Stone, Shrewsbury; Thomas K. Thomas, Boston; Solomon Barrett, Wendell; Hiram Parker, Lowell; Ephraim Lovell, Mansfield; Ezekiel Wood, Douglas; Samuel Taylor, Petersham; Titus T. Wells, New Bedford; William R. Wells, New Bedford; Lyman B. Larkin, Wrentham.

* Removed out of the State.

APPENDIX FOR 1839.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Boston, May 29, 1839.

THE Annual Meeting of the MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY was held May 29th, at the Temple, Tremont street, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The records of the last meeting of the Society, and of the several meetings of the Counsellors during the past year, were read.

Voted, To appoint a Committee to consider the propriety of apportioning the Counsellors according to the number of physicians in each department.

Drs. Walker, Peirson, Wyman, Bartlett of Lowell, and Wilder of Leominster, were chosen the Committee.

Voted, To proceed to the election of Counsellors.

The following gentlemen were elected in the several departments:

First Department. SUFFOLK.—Drs. James Jackson, Benjamin Shurtleff, John C. Warren, John Randall, George C. Shattuck, Walter Channing, Jacob Bigelow, George Hayward, Enoch Hale, Solomon D. Townsend, John Ware, Zabdiel B. Adams, David Osgood, Edward Reynolds, Jr., John Homans, Woodbridge Strong, John Jeffries, George B. Doane, Winslow Lewis, Jr., George W. Otis, Jr., Samuel Morrill, Jerome V. C. Smith.

Second Department. ESSEX.—Drs. Joseph Kittredge,

Jeremiah Spofford, Abel L. Peirson, Andrew Nichols, Edward L. Coffin, Samuel Johnson, Richard S. Spofford, Calvin Briggs, Dean Robinson, Jonathan G. Johnson, Edward A. Holyoke, Wyatt C. Boyden, Rufus Longley, George Choate, George Osborn, Ebenezer Hunt, Charles O. Barker, William Prescott, Joseph Reynolds.

Third Department. MIDDLESEX.—Drs. Thomas Bucklin, John Walton, Abraham R. Thompson, Timothy Wellington, Zadok Howe, William J. Walker, John C. Dalton, Josiah Bartlett, Daniel Swan, John O. Green, Joshua Green, Elisha Bartlett, Anson Hooker, Nehemiah Cutter.

Fourth Department. WORCESTER.—Drs. Stephen Bachel-der, John Green, Edward Flint, Benjamin F. Heywood, Charles W. Wilder, Amos Parker, George Willard, John Starkweather, John G. Metcalf, Pierson T. Kendall, John S. Butler, Joseph Stone.

Fifth Department. HAMPSHIRE, &C.—Drs. Joseph H. Flint, Alpheus F. Stone, Stephen W. Williams, Eli Hall, Elisha Mather, Bela B. Jones, David Bemis, Lemuel W. Belden.

Sixth Department. BERKSHIRE.—Drs. Henry H. Childs, William H. Tyler, Asa G. Welch, Royal Fowler, Robert Worthington, Hubbard Bartlett.

Seventh Department. NORFOLK.—Drs. Amos Holbrook, Nathaniel Miller, John Bartlett, Samuel Bugbee, Robert Thaxter, Jeremy Stimpson, Ebenezer Alden, Noah Fifield, James Hewins, Charles Wild.

Eighth Department. PLYMOUTH.—Drs. Hector Orr, Nathan Hayward, Ezekiel Thaxter, Paul L. Nichols, Noah Whitman, Ezra Stevenson.

Ninth Department. BRISTOL.—Drs. Alexander Read, William C. Whittredge, Andrew Mackie, Caleb Swan, Menzies R. Randall, William A. Gordon, Paul Spooner, Samuel Sawyer.

Tenth Department. BARNSTABLE, &C.—Drs. Joseph Sampson, Aaron Cornish, Henry Tuck, Samuel Swift, Elisha P. Fearing, Leroy M. Yale.

The Treasurer submitted his annual reports.

From that of Receipts and Expenditures, it appeared, that the balance on hand last year was \$199 09

Cash received of Fellows at annual meeting,	\$801	
“ “ Secretary of Censors, 1st		
District, - - -	70	
“ “ For Assessments, sundry		
times, - - -	263 25	
Cash borrowed, - - -	150	
Cash received of Treasurer of Worcester		
District, - - -	54	
“ “ Treasurer of Essex South,	68	
“ “ From anonymous donor,	200	
	—	\$1810 34
The expenditures during the year were	-	1579 02
Leaving a balance in the Treasury of	-	<u>\$231 32</u>

From the Report on the Permanent Fund, it appears, that the whole is invested in the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, in three policies, and, with interest to January 1, 1839, amounts to \$6394 67.

The following Report was then read.

The Committee on the Treasurer's accounts, beg leave to report, that they have attended to the duty assigned them; that the account of the Permanent Fund, as well as the account current for the past year, are accurately cast and duly vouched for; that the amount of the Permanent Fund is \$6394 67, and that the balance of the account current in the Treasury is \$231 32,—subject to a demand of \$150, and interest from October 12, 1838.

(Signed,)

WILLIAM J. WALKER,
WOODBIDGE STRONG.

Boston, May 29, 1839.

Voted, To accept the Reports of the Treasurer and that of the Auditing Committee.

The Report of the Committee on the Library and Cabinet was then read and accepted.

Dr. Belden, of Springfield, offered a resolution for the appointment of delegates from the several Medical Districts to take into consideration the expediency of altering the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society. Whereupon it was

Voted, That a Committee be appointed to consider the proposition brought in by Dr. Belden, and report to the Counsellors.

Drs. Peirson, Spofford, and Belden, were appointed the Committee.

The Committee on Publications made the following report, which was accepted:

The Committee on Publications respectfully report, that they were unable to procure for distribution at the present annual meeting, a further portion of Copland's Medical Dictionary, except at a rate much more expensive than the previous volumes of that work. And as they believe there is a prospect that in another year it may probably be continued on much more favorable terms, the Committee have thought it best to procure for the Society for the present year, 500 copies of Green on Diseases of the Skin.

Which is respectfully submitted,

ENOCH HALE,	} Committee on Publications.
JOHN WARE,	
JOHN HOMANS,	

Boston, May 29, 1839.

On recommendation of the Counsellors, it was

Voted, To amend the 2d Section of the 53d By-Law, by adding after the word "transaction," the words "and shall transmit to the applicant a copy of the By-Laws."

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from the Medical Society of New York, which was referred to the Counsellors.

At 1 o'clock, Dr. Hale read a discourse on the Typhoid Fever of New England.

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. Hale for his learned, ingenious and sound discourse.

On motion of Dr. Samuel Shurtleff, it was

Voted, That a Committee be appointed to investigate charges brought against him for recommending certain secret medicines.

Drs. Strong, Bowditch, Wild, Ware and Walker, were appointed the Committee, to report to the Counsellors.

Communications were read from the Secretaries of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, and of the Boston Natural History Society, inviting the Fellows to visit their respective Cabinets, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Fellows of the Society then proceeded, after the meeting was adjourned, to Faneuil Hall, and dined together, to the number of two hundred and fifty-four.

Attest, S. D. TOWNSEND, *Recording Secretary*.

Proceedings of the Counsellors.

OCTOBER MEETING, 1838.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's Room, October 3, 1838, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Records of the last meeting were read.

The Corresponding Secretary reported the names of the gentlemen who have been admitted Fellows of the Society.

Voted, That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration the By-Law relating to the election of distant members.

Drs. Hale, Peirson and Homans, were appointed the Committee.

Dr. Jackson, Chairman of the Committee on collecting the

outstanding dues of the Society, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again, which was granted.

The Committee on Resignations read letters from Drs. T. W. Harris and William H. Tyler, requesting leave to resign their fellowship, which was granted.

On motion of Dr. Jackson, the vacancy in the Committee, occasioned by the resignation of Dr. Tyler, was filled by the election of Dr. Perry of Stockbridge.

The Recording Secretary read a letter from Dr. Alexander Read and others, making an application for a Southern District Medical Society, to hold its meetings in New Bedford.

Voted, To refer the application to a Committee of three.

Drs. Hale, Homans and Townsend were chosen.

Voted, That the Committee on Publications be authorized to issue a 9th Volume of the Medical Library of Practical Medicine, to be distributed to the Fellows at the next annual meeting, provided the expense do not exceed six hundred dollars.

Voted, To proceed to the election of Fellows and Honorary members.

The ballot was then taken for Eli Ives, M. D., of New Haven, and George McClennan, M. D., of Philadelphia, they having been regularly nominated as candidates for Honorary Membership, and they were severally elected.

FEBRUARY MEETING, 1839.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's Room, February 6, 1839, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Chairman of the Committee on outstanding dues reported progress, and was instructed to prepare a report for the next meeting of the Counsellors.

Voted, That the Treasurer use his discretion in making abatements in collecting the outstanding dues of the Society.

Drs. William J. Walker and Woodbridge Strong, were appointed a Committee to examine the Treasurer's accounts.

Drs. Samuel Morrill and Anson Hooker, were chosen a Committee to examine the Library.

Voted, To proceed to the election of Fellows of the Society.

Dr. Stephen K. Wardwell, of Hardwick, was elected a Fellow.

The Committee to whom was referred the application of Dr. Alexander Read and others, for a Charter for a District Medical Society, reported,

That the Act of Incorporation of this Society, as well as the By-Laws, provides that every Fellow of this Society, residing within the limits of any District, shall be a member of the District Society. It seemed to the Committee important, therefore, that it should be distinctly stated, that at least a majority of the Fellows, who would be included in the proposed District, are in favor of being thus incorporated. As this was not stated in the application referred to them, the Committee wrote to Dr. Read, on the 17th of October last, requesting further information on this point; but they have received no answer to their letter. If the requisite information should be furnished at the present meeting of the Counsellors, as the Committee hope will be the case, they recommend that a charter be granted according to the terms of the application.

(Signed,) ENOCH HALE, *for the Committee.*

Voted, That the report lie on the table.

Dr. Hale, from the Committee appointed to take into consideration the By-Law relative to the admission of distant members, presented the report of the Committee, which recommended the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Society at the next annual meeting, in May, to amend the second Section of the 53d By-Law, by adding after the word "transaction," the words "and shall transmit to the applicant a copy of the By-Laws."

The report was accepted, and the resolution adopted.

Voted, That Drs. Putnam, Holyoke, and Smith, be a Committee to collect Cow Pox matter for distribution among the fellows at the next annual meeting, and that the Treasurer pay the expense, not exceeding twenty dollars.

Voted, That a Committee be appointed to investigate charges of gross immorality made against Dr. William Graves, of Lowell, a Fellow of the Society, and to report at an adjourned meeting of the Counsellors.

Drs. Wyman, Wm. Gordon, Willard, Alden, and Osgood, were appointed the Committee.

Adjourned to the first Wednesday in April.

SPECIAL MEETING—MARCH 18, 1839.

A special meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's Room, March 18, 1839, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The President stated that the meeting was called to consider what measures should be taken in consequence of the petition of Dr. John S. Bartlett, now before the Legislature.

The petition was then read, together with the summons to the president to appear before the Legislature and answer to the charges made against the Society.

After a full discussion of the subject, it was

Voted, That a Committee of six be appointed with instructions and authority to appear before the House of Representatives, in behalf of the Society, to make a defence of the Society and of its proceedings, and do whatever may be necessary to answer or rebut the charges made against the Society or any of its Fellows in the memorial of Dr. John S. Bartlett. And the same Committee shall be authorized to obtain the advice and assistance of some legal counsellor in the conduct of the defence committed to them.

Drs. Jackson, Shattuck, Wyman, Homans, Townsend and Peirson, were appointed the Committee.

Voted, That the allegations made by Dr. John S. Bartlett, in his petition to the Legislature, published in the Morning Post, relating to remarks said to have been made by Dr. A. L. Peirson, before the Medical Society, are entirely without foundation.

Voted, That the meeting be dissolved.

ADJOURNED MEETING—APRIL 3, 1839.

An adjourned meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's Room, in Pearl street, on Wednesday, April 3, 1839, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The records of the last stated meeting were read.

Dr. Wyman, Chairman of the Committee appointed at the last stated meeting to investigate charges of gross immorality made against Dr. William Graves, of Lowell, a Fellow of this Society, presented a report which was amended and accepted as follows:

A meeting of your Committee was appointed to be held at Boston, February 27, 1839, to investigate said charges, of which said Dr. Graves was notified by letter to him directed, and deposited in the Boston Post Office, February 9th.

That thereafter, February 22d, said Graves delivered to the Recording Secretary his license as a practitioner in medicine, and also his diploma and resignation as a Fellow, and delivered to your Committee a copy of his resignation subscribed by himself.

That your Committee met at the time and place appointed, and received documents, printed and written, relative to the professional conduct of Dr. Graves, and that he did not appear at said meeting, which documents are herewith submitted.

Whereupon your Committee recommend that the following vote be passed by the Counsellors:

Whereas charges of gross immorality have been made to

the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society against Dr. William Graves of Lowell, a Fellow of this Society; and whereas said Graves did not attend a meeting of the Committee appointed by the Counsellors to investigate said charges, held at Boston, February 27, 1839, of which meeting he had due notice, but deposited with the Recording Secretary his license as a practitioner in medicine, and also his diploma and resignation as a Fellow,

Voted, That Dr. William Graves, of Lowell, a Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society, "has withdrawn himself from the Society, without the permission of the Counsellors," and is thereby deprived of all the honors and privileges of the Society, and is hereafter to be deemed "by the Fellows of the Society an irregular practitioner."

Respectfully submitted by

(*Signed*,)

RUFUS WYMAN,
WILLIAM GORDON,
DAVID OSGOOD,
EBENEZER ALDEN.

Boston, February 27, 1839.

Dr. Hale, from the Committee on the application of Alexander Read and others, for a District Medical Society, presented the following report, which was read and accepted:

The Committee to whom was referred the application of Alexander Read, M. D., and others, for a District Medical Society, ask leave to report further: That since the stated meeting of the Counsellors they have received from Dr. Read the desired information, that a great majority of the Fellows of the Society, interested in the proposed District Society, have expressed their approbation thereof, and no one has expressed an opposite opinion. The Committee therefore respectfully recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That a charter be issued to Alexander Read, Paul Spooner, Samuel Sawyer, Julius S. Mayhew, Andrew Mackie and William C. Whittredge, establishing a District

Medical Society, to consist of the Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society, residing for the time being in the towns of New Bedford, Fall River, Taunton, Freetown, Fairhaven, Dartmouth and Westport, of Bristol County; Middleborough, Rochester and Wareham, of Plymouth County; Chilmark, Tisbury and Edgarton, of Duke's; and Nantucket,—to be called *The Southern District Medical Society*; and the place of meeting to be New Bedford.

Which is respectfully submitted,

ENOCH HALE,
S. D. TOWNSEND, } *Committee.*
JOHN HOMANS,

Boston, February 22, 1839.

MAY MEETING, 1839.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's Room, Pearl street, May 30, 1839, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The records of the last meeting were read.

The Corresponding Secretary reported the names of the gentlemen who had become Fellows of the Society since the last meeting of the Counsellors.

Voted, To proceed to the choice of officers for the ensuing year.

Drs. Otis and Dalton, were appointed scrutineers.

The following gentlemen were elected to the several offices:

GEORGE C. SHATTUCK, M. D., *President.*

NATHANIEL MILLER, M. D., *Vice President.*

JOHN HOMANS, M. D., *Corresponding Secretary.*

SOLOMON D. TOWNSEND, M. D., *Recording Secretary.*

WALTER CHANNING, M. D., *Treasurer.*

GEORGE W. OTIS, JR., M. D., *Librarian.*

CENSORS,

FOR THE FIRST MEDICAL DISTRICT, AND FOR THE SOCIETY
AT LARGE.

A. L. Peirson, Edward Reynolds, Jr., John Ware, Wood-
bridge Strong, John Jeffries.

FOR THE SECOND MEDICAL DISTRICT.

John Green, Benjamin F. Heywood, Charles W. Wilder,
Benjamin Pond, William Workman.

FOR THE THIRD MEDICAL DISTRICT.

Stephen W. Williams, Elisha Mather, Bela B. Jones,
David Bemis, Mathew B. Baker.

FOR THE FOURTH MEDICAL DISTRICT.

Henry H. Childs, William H. Tyler, Alfred Perry, Asa
G. Welch, Charles Worthington.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS.

Enoch Hale, John Ware, John Homans.

COMMITTEE ON RESIGNATIONS.

Walter Channing, Zabdiel B. Adams, John Jeffries.

Abel L. Peirson, M. D., of Salem, was chosen to deliver
the next annual discourse.

The annual report of the Censors of the First District was
read and accepted.

The report of the Treasurer and that of the Auditing Com-
mittee were then read and accepted.

Voted, That the Corresponding and Recording Secretaries
be appointed to advise with the Treasurer in the collection of
the outstanding dues of the Society, and that the Treasurer
be authorized to borrow \$400, if the state of the treasury
should require it.

The Committee on Resignations reported an application to
resign fellowship from Dr. S. O. Richardson, of South Reading.

Voted, That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration the application of Dr. Richardson, and the whole subject of resignation of fellowship.

Drs. Howe of Billerica, Bartlett of Concord, Cutter of Pepperell, and Choate of Salem, were appointed the Committee.

Voted, That the District Societies be allowed to retain for their own use any money received by them from the sale of the Volumes of the Library of Practical Medicine, to Fellows residing within their limits.

The Committee appointed at a special meeting of the Counsellors, on the 18th of March last, to appear before the House of Representatives in behalf of the Society and of its proceedings, and to do whatever may be necessary to answer or rebut the charges made against the Society or any of its Fellows, in the memorial of Dr. John S. Bartlett, presented the following report of their proceedings accompanied with a printed report of the evidence in the case, published by order of the House of Representatives.

The Committee appointed by the Counsellors on the 18th day of March, "to appear before the House of Representatives, in behalf of the Society and of its proceedings, and to do whatever may be necessary to answer or rebut the charges made against the Society or any of its Fellows, in the memorial of Dr. John S. Bartlett," beg leave to make a report of their proceedings.

On the first examination of their duties, the Committee perceived the necessity of employing legal counsel. Although the course to be pursued might seem perfectly plain in defending the Society against groundless and absurd charges, yet, as the present case was a new one, the future welfare of the Society might be hazarded by establishing some injurious precedent, or by admitting to an undue extent the jurisdiction of the honorable body before which we were called to appear, as well as by objecting to that jurisdiction in terms which might not be deemed to correspond with the respect justly due to that body.

Your Committee, therefore, engaged as counsel, the Hon. Peleg Sprague, who, owing to engagements previously formed, was obliged to relinquish the case after attending the first meeting, and drawing up a respectful protest against the jurisdiction of the tribunal, before which we were called to appear. This protest was subsequently presented, and makes part of the printed report of the legislative committee, herewith presented. The management of the case was then transferred to the Hon. Franklin Dexter.

It is due to these distinguished gentlemen to say, that they both entered zealously into the cause of the Society.

Mr. Dexter's task was extremely laborious. He was called to attend several very long evening sessions, and to be engaged in proceedings more tedious and unpleasant than those usually encountered in a court of law. One advantage, however, was secured by submitting to this annoyance. Our counsel possessed himself of the history of the Society, its character and labors, and discovered how groundless were the charges brought against it by those who were desirous to misrepresent and traduce it.

The Committee of the House of Representatives gave to the parties seven hearings, of between three and four hours each, besides three meetings of shorter duration for consultation and preliminary arrangements. Of the seven formal sessions, five were entirely devoted to the petitioner, leaving only two to be occupied by your Committee, the last of these being on the evening preceding the rising of the General Court.

The petitioner was first examined as a witness. He admitted that the doings of the Society towards him had been characterized by good faith and courtesy, and that his expulsion from the Society was the inevitable consequence of a just adherence to its own by-laws. Notwithstanding this admission, he contended that he was wrongfully expelled, because the offence charged upon him was committed in his character of a newspaper editor, and not as a physician or surgeon; that in recommending to public confidence Williams,

called the oculist, he was actuated by benevolent principles; that this Williams was a surgeon of high standing and possessed of skill in treating diseases of the eyes, far greater than that of any of the regular faculty,—that the degree of Doctor of Medicine, which the petitioner had received from Harvard University, conferred upon him the right of consulting with other physicians, and that the law of the Society authorizing expulsion, which deprived him of the right of consulting with its fellows, was illegal and unconstitutional; that the law prohibiting consultations with irregular practitioners is inhuman and hurtful to the community; that this inhumanity was admitted and approved of by the Society, at the public meeting at which he was expelled, as appeared by the statements made on that occasion by Dr. A. L. Peirson, and tacitly approved by the Society; that the Massachusetts Medical Society is founded, sustained and managed upon wrong principles, its affairs administered by a few, for their own selfish advancement, to the injury of the profession and the public, and that it contains many very ignorant and wicked men, quite as worthy to be called quacks, as those who are commonly so designated; and that, generally, neither the license of the Society, nor the diploma from any medical school, is to be regarded as evidence of professional knowledge.

He likewise maintained that his expulsion from the Society was highly detrimental to his business and prospects.

The evidence offered in support of these positions was trivial and irrelevant. It consisted of certain documents, principally relating to the standing of Williams, and the petitioner's assertions of fact and opinion, under oath, with the testimony, also under oath, as to facts and opinions, principally the latter, by two Counsellors of the Society. A principal object with the petitioner being to show the alleged cruelty of the 8th by-law, restricting consultations. A letter from Dr. Waterhouse, containing his opinions against the Society generally, and specially with regard to these restrictions, was also offered in evidence, and although not received by the Committee of the House of Representatives, was, in the

commendable liberality which characterized their doings, ordered to be printed in an appendix to their report. The counsel for the petitioner here stated that they had brought forward all the evidence they intended to offer, except such as might be necessary to rebut the testimony adduced by the Society.

In their very brief opportunity to reply to these charges, your Committee showed that the charter of the Society, in express terms, gave the right to expel any member on sufficient cause; that Dr. Bartlett was rightfully expelled, upon the facts admitted by himself; that the diploma of Harvard University, in conferring upon him the privilege "*de medicinâ consultandi*," never contemplated creating an obligation in other persons to consult with him; that his connection with Williams was probably of a selfish and not of a benevolent nature, and they showed by his own acknowledgement, as well as by other facts, that his recommendation of him was not merely editorial, but professional, and on the grounds of medical knowledge and skill. They adduced evidence to show clearly that Williams was unworthy of trust, and that any educated physician must have discovered the proofs of imposture and deception in witnessing a single interview with his patients; and they offered much more evidence on this point, going to show conclusively, that Dr. Bartlett's connection with Williams constituted a most aggravated infraction of the by-law relating to consultation, but they were stopped by the Legislative Committee, in consequence of want of time. Your Committee also showed that the petitioner had no right to attribute his lack of professional success to his expulsion from the Society, although, if opportunity had permitted their attorney to go into an argument on the subject, they would have stated through him, that an expulsion, like all penalties for breach of law, is designed to operate to the injury of the person expelled,—but that in regard to the individual in this case, no special malice was felt, nor ought any such feeling to be attributed to the Society, nor to any of its Fellows, without distinct proof.

In answer to the general charges and imputations brought against the Society, your Committee showed by the testimony, under oath, of one of its members, who had been connected with the Society ever since its re-organization in 1803, that the Society had been faithful to the two great trusts committed to it by their charter, to wit: 1. To establish "a just discrimination between such as are duly educated and properly qualified for the duties of their profession, and those who may ignorantly and wickedly administer medicine, whereby the health and lives of many valuable individuals may be endangered, and perhaps lost to the community;" and, 2. To disseminate practical information among the members of the Society; which they have endeavored to do by original and selected publications, reports upon epidemic diseases, the printing and distribution of standard works in medicine, the formation of district societies, the establishment of libraries, and generally by the promotion of enlightened professional intercourse; by all which means the great end for which the Society was established is more certainly attained, viz., the good of the community generally; and that the 8th by-law, making an important distinction between regular and irregular practitioners, especially contributes to the attainment of this object.

They showed that the benefit of the community at large, and not that of the Society, solely, was the real object of its operations; that the modes of action pursued by it were high-minded and honorable; that the rights and feelings of the petitioner were duly regarded in arraigning him before it, and that the allegation against one of the Fellows of the Society, of expressing sentiments at variance with the laws of humanity and the general good of mankind, was utterly false.

Your Committee, having been permitted to occupy only two evenings, and not the whole of them, in adducing evidence, of which they have now given a sketch, were then arrested in their course by the approaching termination of the session of the General Court. On the day following the

last hearing accorded to them, being the last day of the session, the Committee of the House of Representatives made a report, a printed copy of which accompanies this, and which your Committee request may be received as a part of their report.* It will be seen, that no time was allowed for argument by the counsel on either side. That your Committee may not be misunderstood, they deem it right to add, that the Committee of the House of Representatives showed the utmost patience and impartiality in the examination of the case, and that no blame is to be attributed to them for not having brought the case to a conclusion. But although the Committee of the House of Representatives did not feel themselves authorized or required to give an opinion, yet, it seems probable that the testimony published in their report will so far satisfy all honest and reasonable men, that the Massachusetts Medical Society is not subject to any censure in regard to its conduct towards the petitioner, nor in its course of proceedings generally,—that no further annoyance will be felt by it in consequence of the petition. And your Committee conclude their report, by expressing their confident belief, that the present attempt to deprive the Society of its charter will only serve to show more fully, that it is worthy of public support and encouragement as a useful and well-conducted institution.

Respectfully submitted by

JAMES JACKSON,	}	<i>Committee.</i>
GEO. C. SHATTUCK,		
JOHN HOMANS,		
RUFUS WYMAN,		
S. D. TOWNSEND,		
A. L. PEIRSON,		

Boston, May 26, 1839.

Voted, To accept the report.

* The report to the House of Representatives, having been already distributed to the Fellows of the Society, is not reprinted in this Appendix.

On motion of Dr. Warren, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Counsellors be presented to the Committee who have defended the interests of the Society before the Legislature of this Commonwealth, together with an expression of high approbation for their industry, attention and good judgment displayed in the conduct of their business.

The Committee to whom was referred the proposal made at the annual meeting for altering the Constitution of the Society, made the following report:

That the short time they have been enabled to confer together, and to become possessed of the views of the Fellows of the Society who are desirous of so modifying its Constitution, as to secure greater advantages than they now enjoy, to those Fellows residing at a great distance from our place of meeting, has rendered it impossible for your Committee to devise any plan, if any be practicable, to bring about this desirable result.

Your Committee therefore recommend, that the whole subject be referred to a Committee of the Counsellors, with direction to report at their next meeting upon the expediency of recommending to the Society, at their annual meeting, an alteration of the organization of the Society, in conformity to the views presented at the annual meeting of the present year, by a Counsellor from the County of Hampden.

(Signed,)

ABEL L. PEIRSON,
JEREMIAH SPOFFORD,
LEMUEL W. BELDEN.

Boston, May 30, 1839.

Voted, To accept the report, and that this Committee be composed of one Fellow from each county in the State.

A Committee of Nomination was then appointed, consisting of Drs. Jackson, Belden and Hale, who subsequently came in and reported the names of the following gentlemen as

candidates, who were unanimously chosen to compose the Committee:

Berkshire, Dr. Royal Fowler, of Stockbridge; *Hampden*, Dr. Lemuel W. Belden, of Springfield; *Hampshire*, Dr. Elisha Mather, of Northampton; *Franklin*, Dr. Stephen W. Williams, of Deerfield; *Worcester*, Dr. John S. Butler, of Worcester; *Middlesex*, Dr. John C. Dalton, of Lowell; *Essex*, Dr. Jeremiah Spofford, of Bradford; *Suffolk*, Dr. Enoch Hale, of Boston; *Norfolk*, Dr. Ebenezer Alden, of Randolph; *Bristol*, Dr. Alexander Read, of New Bedford; *Plymouth*, Dr. Winslow Warren, of Plymouth; *Barnstable*, Dr. Joseph Sampson, of Brewster; *Duke's County*, Dr. Leroy M. Yale, of Holmes' Hole; *Nantucket*, Dr. Paul Swift, of Nantucket.

Voted, That the Recording Secretary inform each member of the Committee of his appointment,—of the general object of the meeting, and that the expenses of the attendance will be defrayed by the Society, viz., two dollars a day while in session, and the usual expense of travelling by stage or railroad to the place of meeting.

Voted, That the Committee hold their first meeting on the 10th day of July next, at 10 o'clock, A. M., at Worcester; and that Dr. Butler, of that place, be authorized to provide some place for the meeting, and that the members of the Committee report themselves on their arrival to him.

Voted, That every member of the Committee be requested immediately on the receipt of his notice, to inform the Recording Secretary whether he accepts his appointment; and that if any one declines, the President, with the advice of the two Secretaries, the Treasurer and Librarian, be authorized to appoint some Fellow from the same county in his place.

Voted, That if at any meeting of the Committee, any member of the same be absent, the Committee may fill the vacancy, should they be able so to do, by appointing some Fellow from the county in which the deficiency occurs.

Voted, That the President, Drs. Peirson, Homans and Townsend, be a Committee to consider and report upon the practicability of procuring funds by forming a Joint Stock Company, in the stock of which, the permanent fund of the Society shall be invested, for the purpose of erecting a suitable building for the annual meeting and other purposes of the Society.

A letter from the Medical Society of the State of New York was read, recommending a National Medical Convention; whereupon it was

Voted, To concur in the recommendation therein contained, that delegates be appointed at the next meeting of the Counsellors, and that the Corresponding Secretary be requested to write to the New York Society, stating this concurrence.

Voted, That the Committee on Publications be authorized to publish a revised edition of the By-Laws and Orders, with a corrected list of Fellows of the Society, and a list of Books to be studied.

Voted, That the Committee on Publications be authorized to select and publish a Tenth Volume of the Library of Practical Medicine, provided that the expense do not exceed six hundred dollars, to be distributed to the Fellows of the Society at the next annual meeting, on the same terms as were established for the first volume, by the report accepted February 1, 1831.

Voted, That the Librarian be authorized to sell the 9th Volume of the Library of Practical Medicine to such Fellows as shall hereafter be admitted to the Society, one copy to each, for one dollar.

The Committee appointed at the present meeting to take into consideration the letter of Dr. S. O. Richardson, requesting to be discharged from his fellowship with the Massachusetts Medical Society, submitted the following report:

That whereas the said Richardson having withdrawn from

the Society, and having assigned a reason for so doing which is by no means satisfactory, your Committee recommend that the name of the said S. O. Richardson be stricken from the list of Fellows, and that the Counsellors take no further action on the subject.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed,) ZADOK HOWE, *for the Committee.*

Voted, To accept the report.

Attest, S. D. TOWNSEND, *Recording Secretary.*

The following Fellows have during the year resigned their fellowship, by leave of the Counsellors, and become *retired members*:

Nathaniel Pierce, Ashburnham; Nathaniel Swift, Andover; Samuel Adams, Williams Bradford, and Benjamin F. Wing, Boston; Thaddeus W. Harris, Cambridge; Silas Brown, Wilmington.

Drs. William Graves, Lowell, and Solon O. Richardson, South Reading, have withdrawn from the Society.

The following gentlemen have been elected Honorary Members:

Eli Ives, M. D., New Haven; George McClennan, M. D., Philadelphia.

The following gentlemen have become Fellows of the Society, since the last annual publication:

By Election and acceptance of Fellowship.—Charles McAllister, Lee; Timothy Kinniston, Haverhill; Stephen H. Wardwell, Hardwick.

By Signing the By-Laws in Course.—Edward A. Kittredge, Lynn; Henry J. Martin, Boston; Edward Bradstreet, Newburyport; Benjamin H. West, Nantucket; Asa T. Newhall, Lynn; Nathaniel S. Tucker, Boston; Thomas M. Brewer,

Boston; Clark Blaisdell, Marblehead; Henry P. Phillips, North Adams; James Stone, Jr., Salem; John Osgood Stone, Salem; James Wilde, Duxbury; Henry Lyon, Charlestown; Selden Jennings, Richmond; William W. Cutler, Boston; Willard Adams, Woburn; Isaac G. Braman, Georgetown; William W. Wellington, Cambridge; Azell Parkhurst Ladd, New Bedford; William M. Kimball, Southbridge; Benjamin F. Parker, Roxbury; Christopher C. Yates, Boston; Joseph H. Foster, Boston; Bertrand F. Bugard, Boston; Benoni Guay, Quebec, Lower Canada; Jefferson Pratt, Hopkinton; Samuel R. Gerry, Boston; Benjamin Skelton, Lowell; Isaac White Scribner, Lowell; J. S. Lloyd Whittemore, Scituate; Otis Perham, Lowell; David Wells, Lowell; Lemuel W. Briggs, Jr., Middleboro'; Jeremiah P. Jewett, Lowell; Daniel Clark, ———; Charles Vose Bemis, Medford; Albert C. Eaton, Milford; Elisha Huntington, Lowell; Stephen M. Gale, Lowell; Ebenezer T. Learned, Weymouth; Asahel H. Wildes, Ipswich; Robert T. P. Fiske, Hingham; Daniel Mowe, Lowell; Ward N. Boylston, Princeton; Samuel Parkman, Boston; Charles Cutler, Grafton; Harlin Pillsbury, Lowell; William Grey, Lowell; James W. Ford, Lowell; Theophilus E. Wood, Lowell; Alfred Hitchcock, Ashby; Samuel Richardson, Watertown; Benjamin B. Appleton, Jr., Boston; Charles H. Brown, Ipswich; Nathan French, Malden; William S. Saunders, Sturbridge; Samuel C. Hartwell, Southbridge; Ephraim Buck, Jr., Boston; Elbridge Gerry Wheeler, Hopkinton; John W. Tenney, Webster; C. C. Field, Leominster; George Chandler, Worcester; Oliver H. Blood, Worcester.

The first of the year was a very dry one, and the
crops were much injured. The second of the year
was a very wet one, and the crops were much
injured. The third of the year was a very dry
one, and the crops were much injured. The fourth
of the year was a very wet one, and the crops
were much injured. The fifth of the year was a
very dry one, and the crops were much injured.
The sixth of the year was a very wet one, and
the crops were much injured. The seventh of the
year was a very dry one, and the crops were much
injured. The eighth of the year was a very wet
one, and the crops were much injured. The ninth
of the year was a very dry one, and the crops
were much injured. The tenth of the year was a
very wet one, and the crops were much injured.
The eleventh of the year was a very dry one, and
the crops were much injured. The twelfth of the
year was a very wet one, and the crops were much
injured. The thirteenth of the year was a very
dry one, and the crops were much injured. The
fourteenth of the year was a very wet one, and
the crops were much injured. The fifteenth of the
year was a very dry one, and the crops were much
injured. The sixteenth of the year was a very
wet one, and the crops were much injured. The
seventeenth of the year was a very dry one, and
the crops were much injured. The eighteenth of
the year was a very wet one, and the crops were
much injured. The nineteenth of the year was a
very dry one, and the crops were much injured.
The twentieth of the year was a very wet one, and
the crops were much injured. The twenty-first of
the year was a very dry one, and the crops were
much injured. The twenty-second of the year was
a very wet one, and the crops were much injured.
The twenty-third of the year was a very dry one,
and the crops were much injured. The twenty-four
of the year was a very wet one, and the crops were
much injured. The twenty-fifth of the year was a
very dry one, and the crops were much injured.
The twenty-sixth of the year was a very wet one,
and the crops were much injured. The twenty-seventh
of the year was a very dry one, and the crops were
much injured. The twenty-eighth of the year was
a very wet one, and the crops were much injured.
The twenty-ninth of the year was a very dry one,
and the crops were much injured. The thirtieth of
the year was a very wet one, and the crops were
much injured. The thirty-first of the year was a
very dry one, and the crops were much injured.

The first of the year was a very dry one, and the
crops were much injured. The second of the year
was a very wet one, and the crops were much
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The first of the year was a very dry one, and the
crops were much injured. The second of the year
was a very wet one, and the crops were much
injured. The third of the year was a very dry
one, and the crops were much injured.

APPENDIX FOR 1840.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY was held on Wednesday, May 27th, at the Temple, Tremont street, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The records of the last meeting of the Society, and of the several meetings of the Counsellors, were read.

Voted, To proceed to the election of Counsellors.

Drs. Wilder, of Leominster, Flint, of Boston, Walker, of Charlestown, Bartlett, of Concord, Coffin, of Lynn, Bartlett, of Boston, Sargent, of Worcester, and Nichols, of Kingston, were appointed Scrutineers.

The number of Counsellors was then determined as follows: First department, 22. Second department, 17. Third department, 14. Fourth department, 12. Fifth department, 8. Sixth department, 6. Seventh department, 10. Eighth department, 6. Ninth department, 8. Tenth department, 6.

The Fellows were requested to deposit their votes in the ballot boxes, which were to remain on the table until 12 o'clock, when the votes were to be counted.

The Treasurer submitted his annual reports.

From that of Receipts and Expenses, it appears that the balance on hand last year was

					\$231 32
Cash received at annual meeting,	-	-	-	-	780
Assessments, at sundry times,	-	-	-	-	605 70
Secretary, Censors, 1st District,	-	-	-	-	20
Gift, from Dr. George Bates,	-	-	-	-	40
					<hr/> 1677 02
Expenditures during the year,	-	-	-	-	1517 02
Leaving a balance in the Treasury of	-	-	-	-	<hr/> <u>\$160 00</u>

From the Report on the Permanent Fund, it appears, that the whole is invested in the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, in three policies, and, with interest, amounts to \$6746 37.

The following Report was then read.

The Committee appointed to examine the books and accounts of the Treasurer, have attended to that duty, and report, that the books have been regularly kept, according to the usual method, and the accounts correctly vouched; there remains a balance of cash in the Treasury of \$160.

(Signed,) JOHN JEFFRIES, *Chairman.*

Boston, May 27th, 1840.

Voted, To accept the Reports of the Treasurer and that of the Auditing Committee.

The following Report of the Committee on the Library was read and accepted.

The Committee appointed to examine the Library, have attended to that duty, and report, that they find the Library in good condition, the books well kept, and in their places, or accounted for.

(Signed,) WOODBRIDGE STRONG,
EDWARD REYNOLDS.

May 27th, 1840.

Voted, To take up the propositions made by the Counsellors, to amend the By-laws, Rules and Orders.

While they were under consideration, the Scrutineers came in, and reported the choice of the following Counsellors, in the several departments:

First Department. SUFFOLK.—Drs. James Jackson, John C. Warren, George C. Shattuck, Jacob Bigelow, George Hayward, Enoch Hale, Solomon D. Townsend, John Ware, Zabdiel B. Adams, David Osgood, Edward Reynolds, Jr., John Homans, Woodbridge Strong, John Jeffries, George B. Doane, George W. Otis, Jr., Winslow Lewis, Jr., Samuel Morrill, Jerome V. C. Smith, Charles T. Hildreth, D. Humphreys Storer, John Flint.

Second Department. ESSEX.—Drs. Joseph Kittredge, Jeremiah Spofford, Abel L. Peirson, Andrew Nichols, Edward L. Coffin, Samuel Johnson, Richard S. Spofford, Calvin Briggs, Dean Robinson, Jonathan G. Johnson, Rufus Longley, George Choate, George Osborn, Ebenezer Hunt, William Prescott, Charles O. Barker, Joseph Reynolds.

Third Department. MIDDLESEX.—Drs. Thomas Bucklin, Abraham R. Thompson, Timothy Wellington, Zadok Howe, William J. Walker, John C. Dalton, Josiah Bartlett, Daniel Swan, John O. Green, Joshua Green, Elisha Bartlett, Anson Hooker, Nehemiah Cutter, J. Stearns Hurd.

Fourth Department. WORCESTER.—Drs. Stephen Batchelder, John Green, Edward Flint, Benjamin F. Heywood, Charles W. Wilder, Amos Parker, George Willard, John Starkweather, John G. Metcalf, Pierson T. Kendall, Joseph Stone, William Workman.

Fifth Department. HAMPSHIRE.—Drs. Joseph H. Flint, Alpheus F. Stone, Stephen W. Williams, Bela B. Jones, David Bemis, Atherton Clark, Benjamin Barrett, Gardiner Dorrance.

Sixth Department. BERKSHIRE.—Drs. Henry H. Childs, Asa G. Welch, Royal Fowler, Robert Worthington, Vassall White, Snell Babbit.

Seventh Department. NORFOLK.—Drs. Amos Holbrook, Nathaniel Miller, Rufus Wyman, Samuel Bugbee, Robert Thaxter, Jeremy Stimpson, Ebenezer Alden, Noah Fifield, James Hewins, Charles Wild.

Eighth Department. PLYMOUTH.—Drs. Hector Orr, Nathan Hayward, Ezekiel Thaxter, Paul L. Nichols, Noah Whitman, Winslow Warren.

Ninth Department. BRISTOL.—Drs. Alexander Read, William C. Whittredge, Andrew Mackie, Caleb Swan, Menzies R. Randall, Paul Spooner, Samuel Sawyer, William Gordon.

Tenth Department. BARNSTABLE.—Drs. Joseph Sampson, Aaron Cornish, Paul Swift, Elisha P. Fearing, Leroy M. Yale, Henry Tuck.

The consideration of the propositions for the amendment of the By-Laws was suspended at 1 o'clock, by the annual discourse, which was read by Dr. Abel L. Peirson, on the subject of "Fractures."

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. Peirson for his able and useful discourse.

On motion of Dr. Barrett, of Northampton, it was

Voted, To accept the entire Report of the Counsellors on the amendment of the By-Laws. [See pages 82, 84 and 86.]

Voted, To rescind the fourteenth of the "Orders" of the Society, and to adopt the substitute recommended by the Counsellors.

Voted, That the recommendation of the Counsellors to repeal the first of the "Rules and Orders of the Counsellors" be accepted, and that the substitute recommended by them be adopted.

[For all these amendments, &c., see new edition of By-Laws; also, pages 82, 84 and 86 of this Appendix.]

Voted, To adopt the following resolution of the Counsellors: That all votes, heretofore passed, either by the Society or the Counsellors, designed to have a permanent operation, be, and they hereby are, repealed, except so far as they have been incorporated into the By-Laws or Orders.

Voted, That the above resolution be printed with the next edition of the By-Laws.

The following resolution, offered by Dr. Winslow Lewis, was adopted as amended:

Resolved, That there be chosen, by nomination from the chair, five Fellows, as a Committee, to inquire into and report upon the expediency of altering the By-Laws respecting the election of the officers of the Society, so as to incorporate the following as a substitute, to report at the next annual meeting:

At the annual meeting of the Society, there shall be chosen from among its Fellows, by ballot, a President, Vice President, Corresponding and Recording Secretaries, Treasurer, Librarian and Orator.

This resolution was afterwards, on motion, reconsidered and rejected.

Voted, To dissolve the meeting.

Attest, S. D. TOWNSEND, *Recording Secretary*.

The Fellows of the Society then proceeded to the United States Hotel, and dined together, to the number of two hundred and seventy-one.

Proceedings of the Counsellors.

OCTOBER MEETING, 1839.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's Room, Pearl St., October 2d, 1839.

The Records of the last meeting were read.

The Corresponding Secretary reported the names of the gentlemen who had become Fellows of the Society since the last meeting.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from Dr. Samuel Sawyer, of Fairhaven, informing him of the organization of The Southern District Medical Society.

Dr. Hale, from the Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Counsellors to meet at Worcester to consider the

expediency of altering the Constitution of the Society, presented the following Report; which was ordered to be printed, and distributed to each member of the Society; and to be considered at the next stated meeting of the Counsellors.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The Committee of the Counsellors, consisting of one Fellow of the Society from each county in the Commonwealth, appointed to take into consideration the whole subject of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society, have attended to the duty assigned them, and respectfully report:

That the Committee met at Worcester, at the time appointed by the Counsellors, July 10, 1839, two members only—Dr. Read, of New Bedford, and Dr. Yale, of Tisbury—being absent, and continued in session till the following day. After a very full and frank discussion of all the questions that presented themselves, under the very comprehensive commission referred to them, the Committee have come to the following results, which they now present to the Counsellors.

The profession of medicine is a liberal and benevolent one. Its objects can be accomplished only by measures which have a favorable bearing upon the welfare of the whole community, no less than upon the personal interests of its members. In like manner, the best interests of the whole profession are so interwoven, that the prosperity of any considerable part necessarily advances the prosperity of the whole. The Medical Society has, and can have, no separate objects or interests, exclusive of those of the whole body of physicians. Whatever elevates the character and influence of the Society, by the increased intelligence, diligence and devotedness of its members, adds to the respectability, and to the power of doing good, of every member of the profession.

Neither are the means, by which the objects of the Society are promoted, of a selfish or exclusive nature. The whole history of the Society shows that it has never cherished any purpose or desire of accumulating peculiar privileges for its

members. In its original Constitution, the Society was limited to seventy members; on whom were conferred all the powers incident to a regulation of professional conduct, and to the examination of candidates and the granting of licenses. After an experience of twenty years, the members became satisfied that the organization of the Society was not well adapted to the production of all the benefits expected from it. They applied to the Legislature,—not for the grant of additional powers or privileges,—but for permission to share with others the privileges already granted to themselves. Authority was not only obtained to elect all physicians of a suitable character throughout the State Fellows of the Society, but provision was made that, in all time to come, every man of good moral character, who should enter the profession after a proper preliminary education, might claim admission to the Society, as a matter of right. The only restriction was, the requirement that candidates should remain with the privileges of licentiates three years, before they could be admitted Fellows. These were the provisions of the Act of 1803, which was passed solely on the application of the Society, and was prepared with great care, under the watchful supervision of an able committee of its members.

After a further experience of nearly another twenty years, it was found that the restriction of the three years' probation produced in the minds of some young men feelings of jealousy and discontent. The Society applied again to the Legislature; and, as before, not for an increase of its privileges, but for an extension of them to others not embraced in its provisions. The Society has never sought for any advantages to its members, which should not be freely enjoyed by every competent physician in the State, who would in any reasonable manner exhibit the evidence of his competency. It has never sought to coerce those who venture upon the high duties and responsibilities of the profession without a competent preparation. On the contrary, when the Legislature compelled them, by their Censors, to determine who should, and who should not, be entitled to certain legal facilities in regard to professional fees, the difficult trust was accepted with reluctance;

and it was in consequence of the opinion expressed distinctly by the Society, and of the efforts of some of its members, that the law was repealed.

In carrying into effect its important objects, the Society has never relied mainly upon the immediate effects of its legislation. It is not so much by the enactments of its laws, as by the high character and honorable conduct of its members, that it seeks to exert its beneficial influences. The annual meetings of the Society have been attended by a large proportion of the Fellows with feelings of lively interest, and have done much to excite a spirit of improvement and harmony. It is obvious, that the advantages of such meetings are by no means limited to those who ordinarily attend them, but are shared, in a very eminent degree, by all. It is only necessary that the meetings should be so constituted as to secure a fair representation of the interests and feelings of the whole, and thus obtain a general confidence and coöperation. This, the Committee believe, is fully accomplished in regard to a very large proportion of the State; and they confidently trust that the modifications, which they are about to propose, will effect the same purpose in regard to the remaining portion.

The Society is too large to enter with facility as a body upon the discussion of medical questions, except in listening to the annual discourse. A library or a cabinet for the whole Society would not diffuse its benefits to those Fellows who reside at a distance from the place of its deposit, equally with those who are near. These objects can best be accomplished by the action of district medical societies. It should be the policy of the Society, therefore, as it ever has been since its reorganization in 1803, to encourage the formation and efficiency of such societies. And the Committee would recommend to the Fellows of the Society, who are not organized into district societies, to take measures to form them, whenever it can advantageously be done; believing that they may do much to extend the usefulness of our institution.

In the practical adaptation of the principles thus expressed, the Committee do not propose any radical change in the

organization or mode of action of the Society. They believe that the great purposes for which the Society was established, or which can with propriety come within its purview, have already been accomplished more effectually than in almost any other kindred institution of which they have any knowledge, in respect to far the greatest part of the profession. But it is said, in behalf of those who reside in the four western counties of the State, that their great distance from the place of meeting precludes them from the enjoyment of many of the advantages possessed by those who are more favorably situated; and that, in consequence, so few of their Fellows attend the meetings, either of the Society or of the Counsellors, that the proceedings do not obtain their sympathy or confidence in a sufficient degree to render either the By-Laws or the recommendations of the Society operative upon them.

To remedy this difficulty, and to acquire for the legitimate actions of the Society the confidence of all its members, the Committee recommend the adoption of a system of modified representation. They do not propose a change of the Constitution to a Society made up of delegates. It is perfectly evident to them, that a very large majority of the Society are altogether indisposed to relinquish the advantages and the satisfaction derived from a personal attendance on the annual meetings. Such an attendance need not be abandoned. But the Committee propose that district societies, whenever they are disposed to do it, shall be authorized to select their own Counsellors, and that absent members, both of the Society and of the Counsellors, shall be permitted to vote by proxy. This will secure to the distant members of the Society an easy and full representation of their views and feelings at the several meetings; while it does not interfere with the right of each Fellow to take his full share in the proceedings. Provision is also made for the election of the whole body of the Counsellors in a manner conformable to the charter, both in regard to such portions of the Society as may not be organized into district societies, and to any deficiency that may exist in respect to the selections of the district societies. The nature of the proposed arrangement will more fully appear from

the amendments herewith submitted to the By-Laws of the Society. This plan does not require an arbitrary organization of the Society into fixed districts, or any interference with the present arrangement of district medical societies, or with such as may be formed hereafter, according to the convenience and feelings of the Fellows in the several parts of the State. It only requires that the number of Counsellors shall be determined according to a fixed ratio of the number of Fellows in the several districts and counties.

It appears to the Committee, by information furnished by some of its members, that the fifty-sixth By-Law has, in some parts of the State, given offence, by taking away the freedom originally intended to be allowed to all regular physicians, to join the Society, or not, as they pleased, and stigmatizing as irregular practitioners, gentlemen who have been recognized as competent physicians, merely for the exercise of this freedom. This is an effect which the Committee believe was not distinctly in the contemplation of the Society, when the fifty-sixth By-Law was adopted; and as they think the object of that By-Law, in regard to the conduct of licentiates and doctors of medicine, who are not Fellows of the Society, may be satisfactorily accomplished by a different provision, they recommend its repeal, and the adoption of a substitute.

The Committee have great satisfaction in stating, that, although they came together from the different parts of the State, with views in some respects widely diverse from each other, they have, after a full expression and comparison of feelings and opinions, united in all these recommendations with entire unanimity and harmony. And in regard to a few other propositions which have been suggested by different members, but not agreed to by the Committee, the adoption of them has not been pressed in such a manner as to leave the least apprehension that the authors of them will retire from the Committee with disappointed or dissatisfied feelings. They have a confident persuasion that the adoption of the modifications, now proposed with such unanimity by the Committee, will so far satisfy the expectations of the profession in the western counties of the State, as to induce them,

at no distant period, to coöperate in all the efforts of the Society with the same harmony and interest that are now felt in other parts of it.

The Committee present with this Report the record of their proceedings, to which they beg leave to refer the Counsellors for any further explanation of their opinions, and for some recommendations, to which they respectfully ask the attention of the Counsellors, although not necessarily embraced in the leading purposes of their appointment.

In order to carry into effect the propositions embraced in this Report, the Committee recommend to the Counsellors the adoption of the subjoined resolution.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Committee,

ENOCH HALE, *Chairman.*

JOHN C. DALTON, *Secretary.*

Worcester, July 11, 1839.

Resolved, That the Counsellors recommend to the Society, at the next annual meeting, to amend the By-Laws of the Society as follows:

1st. To strike out the second section of By-Law II, and insert the following words:

“2. The Counsellors shall be elected from among the Fellows of the Society, residing within the several districts or counties, as nearly as may be in the proportion of one Counsellor to every five Fellows; provided that at least one Counsellor shall be elected in each county;—and provided that the Society shall not be restricted from electing, on any special occasion, an additional number in any county. Ballots shall first be given for those Counsellors who shall have been elected by the district medical societies, agreeably to the provisions of the forty-fifth By-Law. Counsellors for such portions of the State as are not included in any district society, and for any districts from which no return of Counsellors elected by the district society may have been received, shall then be balloted for; and in such election, Fellows belonging

to any district society, which shall have selected its own Counsellors, shall not be entitled to ballot for Counsellors for other portions of the State."

2d. To insert the following as a new By-Law [to be numbered III, the other By-Laws to be numbered in conformity thereto].

III. "Any Fellow of the Society, or Counsellor, absent from any meeting, shall in all cases be entitled to vote by proxy."

3d. To insert the following as a new By-Law [to be numbered XLV].

XLV. "Any district medical society may elect, previously to the last Wednesday of May in each year, the number of Counsellors to which by its number of Fellows such district is entitled, and make return of such election to the Recording Secretary before the annual meeting of the Society."

4th. To repeal the fifty-sixth By-Law, and substitute the following [to be numbered LVIII].

LVIII. "If any licentiate of this Society, or Doctor of Medicine, graduated either at Harvard University or at the Berkshire Medical Institution, shall consult with, or aid or abet any irregular practitioner, he shall be liable to be deprived of the privileges of a licentiate, and to be declared an irregular practitioner."

5th. In the forty-fourth By-law, to strike out the words, "to be appropriated for a library, to belong to such district society."

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Worcester, July 10, 1839, 10 o'clock, A. M., Wednesday.— Agreeably to a vote of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, passed at a session held May 30, 1839, a Committee, consisting of a member of the Society from each county, met as above to take into consideration the proposition of Dr. Belden, of Hampden county, relative to the expediency of certain alterations in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society.

Present, Drs. Hale, from Suffolk; Williams, from Franklin; Warren, from Plymouth; Belden, from Hampden; Butler,

from Worcester; Mather, from Hampshire; Alden, from Norfolk; Swift, from Nantucket; Sampson, from Barnstable; Dalton, from Middlesex.

The meeting was organized by the choice of Dr. Hale as Chairman, and Dr. Dalton as Secretary.

The members were then respectively invited to offer a free and frank expression of their own views and feelings, and, as far as they were acquainted with them, of those of the members of the Society residing in their respective counties, in relation to the present organization and operations of the Society, and to make any suggestions which might occur to them, relative to the object had in view in their appointment.

After a full discussion and free and unreserved interchange of opinion,

On motion of Dr. Hale, a Sub-committee was chosen, for the purpose of embodying in a definite form the several propositions recommended in the course of the discussion, and to report the same for the action of the Committee.

Drs. Hale, Williams and Belden were appointed said Committee. The meeting then adjourned to 8 o'clock, P. M.

Eight o'clock, P. M.—Met according to adjournment.

Drs. Fowler, from Berkshire, and Spofford, from Essex, appeared, and took part in the discussions.

Dr. Hale, Chairman of the Sub-committee, then offered to the consideration of the meeting the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That as the interests of the medical profession are promoted only by measures which increase its usefulness to the whole community, so the true prosperity of the Medical Society is to be advanced only by such means as contribute to the respectability and usefulness of the whole profession.

2. *Resolved*, That the benefits of a medical society are derived, not so much from the direct effects of its legislation, as from its influence upon the character and conduct of its members.

3. *Resolved*, That occasional meetings are of essential importance to the prosperity of the Medical Society, and the degree of utility of such meetings is very nearly in proportion

to the interest felt in them by the profession, and the spirit of improvement and harmony excited by them.

4. *Resolved*, That the advantages of such meetings are by no means limited to those who generally attend them, *provided* that they are so constituted as to secure a fair representation of the interests and feelings of the whole profession, and thus obtain a general confidence and coöperation.

5. *Resolved*, That some of the means for promoting medical improvement,—especially the establishment of libraries and cabinets, and the discussion of medical questions,—can best be conducted in smaller associations than the State Society, and therefore it should be, as it long has been, the policy of the Massachusetts Medical Society, to promote the formation and efficiency of district medical societies.

6. *Resolved*, That a more general formation of district medical societies, throughout the State, would greatly promote the interests of the Society, as well as those of the profession and the community at large.

7. *Resolved*, That this Committee recommend to the Counsellors and the Society such a modification of the By-Laws of the Society as shall embrace the following provisions:

1st. The Counsellors shall be chosen from the different parts of the State, as nearly as may be in proportion to the number of Fellows in the several districts and counties, provided that there shall be at least one Counsellor in each county, and provided, also, that the Society shall not be restricted from electing, on any special occasion, an additional number.

2d. Any district society may elect, previously to the last Wednesday of May, annually, the number of Counsellors, to which by its number of Fellows such district is entitled, and make return of such election to the Recording Secretary before the annual meeting of the Society. Counsellors for such portions of the State as are not included in any district society, and for any district from which no return of Counsellors elected by the district society may have been received, shall be elected at the annual meeting; and in such election,

Fellows belonging to any district society that shall have elected its own Counsellors, shall not be entitled to vote.

3d. Fellows of the Society, or Counsellors, absent from any meeting, shall, in all cases, be entitled to vote by proxy.

8. *Resolved*, That the Committee recommend a repeal of the fifty-sixth By-Law, and the adoption of a substitute which shall provide that any licentiate of the Society, or Doctor of Medicine of Harvard University, or of the Berkshire Medical Institution, who shall consult with, or aid or abet any irregular practitioner, shall be liable to be deprived of the privileges of a licentiate, and be declared an irregular practitioner.

9. *Resolved*, That the Committee recommend that the forty-fourth By-Law be amended in the first paragraph, by striking out the words, "to be appropriated for a library to belong to such district society."

The above resolutions, having been severally discussed, were thereupon unanimously adopted, the question having been taken separately on each resolution.

Voted, That a Sub-committee of two be now chosen to draft a report, embracing the doings of this Committee, for the consideration of the Counsellors of the Society.

Drs. Hale and Alden were appointed.

At half-past 12 o'clock,

Voted, To adjourn to to-morrow, at 8 o'clock, A. M.

July 11, *Thursday*, 8 o'clock, *A. M.*—Dr. Hale, as Chairman of the Sub-committee chosen last evening, having submitted to the Committee a Report on the subject committed to them, it was voted unanimously, that said Report be accepted.

Voted, That said Report be signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Committee.

On motion of Dr. Swift,

Voted, That it be recommended to the Counsellors to adopt measures for procuring statistical returns annually from each county in the State, embracing the number of deaths occurring therein, with their causes, together with the respective age and sex of the deceased. Also, that in each county, where

attainable, daily meteorological observations be made, showing the quantity of rain, the height of the barometer and thermometer, and the course of the wind; and that, for present information and future reference, an accurate record of the above returns in a tabular form, be kept by the Society.

On motion of Dr. Hale,

Voted, That a Sub-committee be chosen, to arrange the pay roll of the Committee.

Drs. Butler, Williams and Sampson were appointed on said Committee.

Dr. Butler, Chairman of the above Committee, reported the amount of the pay roll of the Committee to be \$175.

Voted, That the Secretary furnish the Treasurer of the Society the amount to which each member of the Committee is entitled for attendance on the duties of said Committee, under the vote of the Counsellors appointing them.

On motion of Dr. Swift, it was unanimously

Voted, That the thanks of this Committee be presented to Dr. Hale, for the able, impartial and courteous manner in which he has presided over its deliberations. Also, that our thanks be due to Dr. Butler, for his assiduous attentions to our comfort and entertainment, and to Dr. Dalton for his services as Secretary.

Voted, That the records of the proceedings of this Committee be signed by the Chairman and Secretary, and transmitted, with their Report, to the Counsellors.

ENOCH HALE, *Chairman*.

JOHN C. DALTON, *Secretary*.

Worcester, July 11, 1839.

Dr. Strong, from the Committee appointed at the annual meeting of the Society, at the request of Dr. Samuel A. Shurtleff, "to investigate certain charges made against him for recommending secret remedies," made the following Report:

That, however much Dr. Shurtleff may have suffered his name to be connected, perhaps inadvertently, with certain

remedies, yet they do not find that there has been any thing in his conduct, with regard to them, which renders him amenable to the action of the Society.

Voted, To accept the Report.

The subject of appointing delegates to the General Medical Convention having come up for consideration, it was

Voted, That the subject be referred to the next meeting of the Counsellors, and that the Corresponding Secretary be requested to take no action thereon.

Voted, That a Committee be appointed to prepare a new list of the Fellows of the Society, arranged by counties, with the date of admission or election of each Fellow, and of his discharge, by death or otherwise, so far as the same can be ascertained.

Drs. Hale, Alden, Adams, Homans, Otis and Townsend were appointed the Committee.

The following resolutions were submitted by Dr. Hale:

Resolved, That the Counsellors recommend to the Society, at the next annual meeting, to amend the sixth By-Law, so that it may read as follows:

VI. Those Fellows who have resigned the fellowship of this Society, with the permission of the Counsellors, after having arrived at the age of 60 years, shall, while living, be distinguished in the printed list of the Society by a peculiar mark; and shall be denominated *Retired Members*. They shall be entitled to all the privileges of Fellows, and shall conform to all the requirements of the Society, and be subject to all its penalties, except that they shall not be liable to assessments, nor shall they be bound to accept any office in the Society.

Resolved, That the Counsellors recommend to the Society to amend the eighth By-Law by striking out the concluding paragraph, beginning with the words, "From and after this annual meeting."

Voted, That the above resolutions be appended to the printed copy of the doings of the Worcester Committee.

On motion of Dr. Hale, it was

Voted, That the recommendation of the Committee at Worcester, respecting "statistical returns," be referred to a Committee of the Counsellors, to devise and report a plan, if any be practicable, for carrying the same into effect.

Drs. Hale, Swift and Storer were appointed the Committee.

Voted, To proceed to ballot for Fellows and Honorary Members.

The following gentlemen, having been regularly nominated, were then severally elected Fellows:

John W. Couch, Great Barrington; Moses Carter, Amesbury; Oliver Ford, Barnstable; Joseph Haskell, Rochester; George Sturtevant, Middleborough; Perez F. Doggett, Wareham; Newton Southworth, Rochester; Amory Glazier, Jason H. Archer, Foster Hooper, Thomas Wilbur, Fall River; Benjamin B. Sisson, Westport; Francis D. Bartlett, Dartmouth; Edward W. Greene, New Bedford; and John Perkins, Middleborough.

Marshall Hall, M. D., of London, was elected an Honorary Member.

Voted, That this meeting be dissolved.

Attest, S. D. TOWNSEND, *Recording Secretary*.

FEBRUARY MEETING, 1840.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's Room, Pearl St., February 5th, 1840, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The records of the last meeting were read.

The Corresponding Secretary reported the names of the gentlemen who had become Fellows of the Society since the last meeting of the Counsellors.

The Committee on Publications submitted the following Report:

The Committee on Publications respectfully report, that they have selected, for the 10th volume of the Library of Practical Medicine, the "Researches on the Yellow Fever of Gibraltar," by M. Louis, translated by George C. Shattuck, Jr., M. D. By the generosity of a liberal benefactor of the Society, they have been provided with six hundred copies, in a very beautiful style of execution, for distribution to the Fellows, without any expense to the Society's funds.

As yellow fever has prevailed in many of the southern and western cities of the United States the last summer, and thereby excited a strong degree of interest in regard to the disease among the profession in every part of the country, the Committee, in compliance with the wishes of the donor, have made arrangements for the supply of those Fellows who choose to call on the publishers for the volume in advance of the usual time of distribution. Those who do not thus receive their copies, will be supplied, in the usual manner, at the annual meeting in May next.

ENOCH HALE, *for the Committee.*

Voted, To accept the Report, and that the thanks of the Counsellors be presented, through the Committee on Publications, to the liberal donor of six hundred copies of the Researches on the Yellow Fever of Gibraltar, by M. Louis, for distribution to the Fellows, as Vol. X of the Library of Practical Medicine.

The Committee of the Counsellors, appointed to prepare a new list of Fellows of the Society, respectfully report:

That, with an amount of labor which they would hardly have been willing to undertake, if they had foreseen the full extent of it, they have prepared a catalogue of the Society, which they now present to the Counsellors.

The Fellows are arranged by counties, in alphabetical order, with the date of election or admission, and that of resignation and death, and the age of the deceased members,

as far as these circumstances could be ascertained. In the hope of obtaining the means of doing this more perfectly, the Committee availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by the distribution of the Report on the By-Laws, to request each Fellow of the Society to communicate information in regard to the decease and removal of members in his vicinity; but no answer was obtained from any one. It is highly desirable that these changes should be correctly recorded. Besides the natural interest that is felt in possessing an accurate catalogue of the Society as it now exists, it might save much inconvenience and loss in the distribution of the publications.

For the Committee,

(Signed,)

ENOCH HALE, *Chairman.*

The resolution offered by the Committee of the Counsellors appointed to meet at Worcester, to take into consideration the whole subject of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society, was read and considered by distinct propositions, and, after being amended, was adopted in the following words:

Resolved, That the Counsellors recommend to the Society, at the next annual meeting, to amend the By-Laws of the Society as follows:

1st. To strike out the second section of By-Law II, and insert the following words:

“2. The Counsellors shall be elected from among the Fellows of the Society, residing within the several districts or counties, as nearly as may be in the proportion of one Counsellor to every eight Fellows; provided that at least one Counsellor shall be elected in each county. Ballots shall first be given for Counsellors for those districts in which candidates shall have been selected by the district medical societies, agreeably to the provisions of the forty-fifth By-Law. Counsellors for such portions of the State as are not included in any district society, and for any districts from which no return of Counsellors selected by the district society may have been received, shall then be balloted for.”

2d. To insert the following as a new By-Law [to be numbered III, the other By-Laws to be numbered in conformity thereto].

III. "Any Fellow of the Society, or Counsellor, absent from any meeting, shall, in all cases, be entitled to vote by proxy, duly authorized in writing, provided that no individual shall represent the vote of more than eight others, except in the election of Counsellors."

3d. To insert the following as a new By-Law [to be numbered XLV].

XLV. "Any district medical society may select, previously to the last Wednesday of May in each year, the number of Counsellors to which by its number of Fellows such district is entitled, and the Secretary of said society shall make return of such selection to the Recording Secretary before the annual meeting of the Society."

4th. To repeal the fifty-sixth By-Law, and substitute the following [to be numbered LVIII].

LVIII. "If any Licentiate of this Society, or Doctor of Medicine, graduated either at Harvard University or at the Berkshire Medical Institution, shall deal in or recommend secret medicines, or shall consult with, or aid or abet any irregular practitioner, he shall be liable to be deprived of the privileges of a licentiate, and to be declared an irregular practitioner."

5th. In the forty-fourth By-Law, to strike out the words, "to be appropriated for a library to belong to such district society."

The following resolutions, presented at the last meeting of the Counsellors, were then considered, and adopted as amended:

Resolved, That the Counsellors recommend to the Society, at the next annual meeting, to amend the sixth By-Law, so that it may read as follows:

VI. "Those Fellows who, after having arrived at the age of 60 years, have resigned the fellowship of this Society, with

the permission of the Counsellors, shall, while living, be distinguished in the printed list of the Society by a peculiar mark, and shall be denominated *Retired Members*. They shall be entitled to all the privileges of Fellows, and shall conform to all the requirements of the Society, and be subject to all its penalties, except that they shall not be liable to assessments, and that they shall not be bound to accept any office in the Society."

Resolved, That the Counsellors recommend to the Society to amend the eighth By-Law, by striking out the concluding paragraph, beginning with the words, "From and after this annual meeting," &c.

The following propositions were then offered and adopted:

Resolved, That the Counsellors recommend to the Society to amend the fourth Section of the 2d By-Law, by striking out the words, "except when the Society first decide by their vote that the matter is urgent."

Also, to amend the forty-second By-Law, by striking out the word "Corresponding," and inserting "Recording," before Secretary, in the fourth line of the second paragraph thereof.

Resolved, That the Counsellors recommend to the Society the repeal of the fourteenth "Order," and the adoption of the following:

14. "It shall be the duty of the Secretary of each district society to communicate to the Corresponding Secretary notice of any changes that may occur in his district, by the death or removal of a Fellow of the Society."

Resolved, That the Counsellors recommend to the Society to repeal the first of the "Rules and Orders of the Counsellors," and to substitute the following:

1. "A publication shall be issued annually, under the direction of the Committee on Publications, as early as may be after the annual meeting, and shall be distributed by the Librarian to each Fellow and Retired Member, and to the Honorary Members of the Society, by mail, or through the

medium of the district societies. Such publication shall contain the annual discourse,—unless otherwise directed by the Society or the Counsellors,—and such other medical communications as the Counsellors may authorize to be published; and, in an Appendix, an abstract of the proceedings of the Society and of the Counsellors, comprising the record of all their transactions, excepting only such as are of a private or personal nature; a list of the officers of the Society and of each district society; and a list of those who have become Fellows, or Honorary Members, and of those who have resigned fellowship during the preceding year."

Resolved, That the Counsellors recommend to the Society, at the next annual meeting, to adopt the following vote:

Voted, That all votes heretofore passed, either by the Society or the Counsellors, designed to have a permanent operation, be, and they hereby are, repealed, except so far as they have been incorporated into the By-Laws or Orders.

Voted, That the above resolution be printed with the next edition of the By-Laws.

Drs. Samuel Morrill and John Jeffries were appointed a Committee to examine the Treasurer's accounts.

Drs. Strong and Reynolds were chosen a Committee to examine the Library.

Drs. Putnam, Smith and Hooker were appointed a Committee to collect Cow Pock matter for distribution among the members at the next annual meeting.

Voted, That this meeting be dissolved.

(*Signed*,) S. D. TOWNSEND, *Recording Secretary*.

SPECIAL MEETING—MARCH 28, 1840.

A special meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's Room, Pearl street, March 28, 1840.

The President stated that the meeting was called in consequence of his receiving the following communication:

GEORGE C. SHATTUCK, Esq., *President of Mass. Medical Society*,—

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives, to whom is referred the Petition or Memorial of John S. Bartlett, concerning certain proceedings of the Massachusetts Medical Society, I inform you, that hearing of the memorialist will be further proceeded in next Monday afternoon, at half-past three o'clock, in Lobby No. 14, at the State House, where you and other members of the government of the Society may be present, if to you it shall seem good.

Your obedient,

(Signed,)

JAMES SAVAGE, *Chairman*.

Monday, 24th Feb, 1840.

Whereupon, on motion of Dr. Warren, it was

Resolved, That the President of the Society be requested to acknowledge respectfully a notice received from the Chairman of a Committee of the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives, which was appointed to investigate certain charges against the Massachusetts Medical Society, and to state,

That the Counsellors of the Society have, at various hearings, before a Committee of the Legislature, presented such facts and documents as the nature of the case seemed to call for; that these facts and documents are in the hands of the Legislature; and that the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society are ready to trust to such action of the Legislature thereon, as, in their wisdom, they may deem conformable to the Constitution and laws of this Commonwealth.

Dr. Hale offered the following, as an amendment to the amended By-Laws to be recommended to the Society for adoption, which was accepted:

In the By-Law to be numbered III, to strike out all after the word "provided," and insert the following: "That no Fellow shall be represented by any other than a Fellow, and no Counsellor by any other than a Counsellor, who shall, in

either case, be an inhabitant of his own county or district; and no Fellow or Counsellor shall at any time represent the votes of more than eight others."

The meeting was then dissolved.

S. D. TOWNSEND, *Recording Secretary*.

MAY MEETING, 1840.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's Room, Pearl St., 28th May, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The records of the last meeting were read.

Dr. Hale read the Report of a Committee on "Statistical Returns," which was accepted and referred to a Committee to carry the recommendation of the Report into effect.

Drs. Hale, of Boston, Alden, of Randolph, and Swift, of Nantucket, were chosen to constitute that Committee.

The Committee appointed to consider the practicability of obtaining statistical returns of diseases, and of meteorological observations, respectfully report, that

The necessity of a correct *bill of mortality*, to the physician who wishes to investigate the history of disease with an approach to accuracy, is so self-evident, that any observations which might be presented here, would be considered not merely ill-judged, but also superfluous. That these bills have been hitherto so much neglected as to be of but little real utility, is equally apparent. To propose some measures for their better regulation,—by which they may be made not merely an account of the *number of deaths*, but also of the *sex, age, disease, &c., &c.*,—your Committee conceive they were appointed.

To the consideration of this subject, they have given their attention, and would ask leave respectfully to report,—That the Revised Statutes of the Commonwealth, published in 1836, require that "the town clerk shall keep a record of the

births and deaths of all persons within his town, and coming to his knowledge; and he shall specify in such record the day of each birth and death, and the names of the parents of such persons, if known." Thus, an individual who can have no possible interest to make any particular inquiries respecting the deceased, has the responsibility of conducting this important subject. It would be unreasonable to expect any information from such a source, which could be relied upon, save the mere *number of deaths*. Some other regulation, therefore, is very much needed. It has occurred to your Committee, that one of two courses might be pursued, to accomplish the desired object. Either that an effort be made, by means of the Legislature, to obtain more accurate information, by requiring every town clerk, or some other officer, to keep such a record of the deaths as may be desired by this Society; or, in case they should fail to do thus, be subject to a heavy penalty. Or, secondly, that this Society should take the matter into their own hands, and, by their fidelity and zeal in its prosecution, prove their sense of its importance.

Upon the former expedient, your Committee would place but little reliance. Even should the Legislature be induced to take any steps to answer our wishes (which is altogether uncertain), it would be very improbable that any important results could be thus obtained.

To the latter course alone, it is believed that the Society may look, and with confidence, for the accomplishment of their wishes. They are most directly interested in the establishment of a full and accurate bill of mortality; they are conscious of its present defects, and what changes are required; and they are most competent to make those changes.

Your Committee would therefore propose, that the Society look to the free and voluntary labors of its members, for the formation of such a bill as is needed. They would suggest the expediency of a printed circular being sent to every member of the Society, requesting him to prepare a careful list of the births which may occur in the town in which he resides; together with the deaths, the ages at which they

occur, the name of the disease, and any other particulars desired, upon a blank form, to be furnished him at the expense of the Society, and that these tables be sent in January of each year to the Recording Secretary, who shall prepare from them a general table, to be presented to the Society at the annual meeting; so that they may be valuable additions to the Society's transactions, should it be deemed advisable to publish them.

Although the preparation of such tables would necessarily require considerable labor, your Committee feel satisfied that the Fellows of this Society would promptly answer to such a call; that they would feel they were individually expected to exert themselves; and that they would gladly show their willingness and readiness, each, to the best of his ability, to comply with your wishes.

In regard to meteorological observations, the Committee are not prepared to offer any plan; but they would trust that some gentlemen in different parts of the State would of their own accord make returns of such observations in connection with their reports on the other topics proposed.

ENOCH HALE,	}	<i>Committee.</i>
PAUL SWIFT,		
D. HUMPHREYS STORER,		

Boston, May 28th, 1840.

The Corresponding Secretary reported the names of the gentlemen who had become Fellows of the Society since the last meeting of the Counsellors.

The Corresponding Secretary also read a letter from the Secretary of the Southern District Medical Society, informing him of the number and names of its members, and its organization for the present year.

Voted, To proceed to the choice of officers for the year ensuing.

A letter was read from Dr. Shattuck, declining to be considered a candidate for re-election to the office of President.

Drs. Flint, of Leicester, Greene, of Groton, and Green, of Lowell, were appointed Scrutineers.

RUFUS WYMAN, M. D., of Roxbury, was chosen *President*.

STEPHEN BATCHELDER, M. D., of Royalston, was chosen *Vice President*, Dr. Miller having declined a re-election.

SOLOMON D. TOWNSEND was chosen *Corresponding Secretary*, vice Dr. Homans, declined.

GEORGE W. OTIS, Jr., *Recording Secretary*.

WOODBRIDGE STRONG, *Treasurer*.

SAMUEL MORRILL, *Librarian*.

Censors for the First Medical District, and for the Society at large, A. L. Peirson, Z. B. Adams, John Jeffries, George B. Doane, Anson Hooker.

For the Second Medical District, John Green, C. W. Wilder, B. F. Heywood, Benjamin Pond, William Workman.

For the Third Medical District, S. W. Williams, David Bemis, Atherton Clark, Benjamin Barrett, E. E. Denniston.

For the Fourth Medical District, H. H. Childs, A. G. Welch, Royal Fowler, Charles Worthington, N. S. Babbit.

Committee on Publications, Enoch Hale, John Ware, John Homans.

Committee on Resignations, Woodbridge Strong, Zabdiel B. Adams, John Jeffries.

Edward Reynolds, M. D., of Boston, was chosen to deliver the next annual discourse.

Voted, That the thanks of the Counsellors be presented to George C. Shattuck, M. D., for the dignified and impartial manner in which he has discharged his duties, as President of this Society, and for his active, liberal and successful efforts in promoting its best interests.

Voted, That the thanks of the Counsellors be presented to Nathaniel Miller, M. D., for his able and impartial services, as Vice President of the Society.

Voted, That the thanks of the Counsellors be presented to Dr. Homans, for the faithful discharge of the arduous duties of his office, as Corresponding Secretary, and also for the discharge of other important offices which he has held in this Society for the last twenty years.

Voted, That the thanks of the Counsellors be presented to Dr. Channing, for his long, faithful and devoted services as Treasurer.

The petition of the members of the Society residing in Barnstable county, to be established as a District Medical Society, was granted.

The petition of the members of the Society residing in Hampden county, to be established as a District Medical Society, was granted.

Voted, That the thanks of the Counsellors be presented to the New York State Medical Society, for the donation of their publications.

The Report of the Treasurer on the subject of the Permanent Fund of the Society was referred to Drs. Bigelow, Hale and Walker.

The Report of the Censors for the First District of the Society was read and accepted.

The Report of the Committee on the Library was read and accepted.

Voted, That the Committee on Publications cause a new edition of the By-Laws, with the new list of Fellows, to be published.

Dr. Jones Guilford, of Spencer, was elected a Fellow.

The Committee on the Permanent Fund of the Society was instructed also to examine the accounts, and see to the transfer of the books and property of the Society from the late to the present Treasurer.

Voted, That this meeting be dissolved.

Attest, GEORGE W. OTIS, Jr., *Recording Secretary*.

The names of those who have become Fellows, or Honorary Members, during the past year, and of those who have resigned fellowship, are contained in the List of Fellows just published with the By-Laws of the Society.

Officers of the Massachusetts Medical Society,

ELECTED MAY 28, 1840.

RUFUS WYMAN, M. D., of Roxbury, *President.*STEPHEN BACHELDER, M. D., of Royalston, *Vice President.*SOLOMON D. TOWNSEND, *Corresponding Secretary.*GEORGE W. OTIS, JR., *Recording Secretary.*WOODBIDGE STRONG, *Treasurer.*SAMUEL MORRILL, *Librarian.*

A. L. Peirson, Z. B. Adams, John Jeffries, George B. Doane, and Anson Hooker, *Censors for the Society at large, and for the First Medical District.*

John Green, B. F. Heywood, C. W. Wilder, Benjamin Pond, and William Workman, *Censors for the Second District.*

S. W. Williams, Atherton Clark, David Bemis, Benjamin Barrett, and E. E. Denniston, *Censors for the Third District.*

Henry H. Childs, Royal Fowler, Asa G. Welch, Charles Worthington, and Nathan S. Babbitt, *Censors for the Fourth District.*

Enoch Hale, John Ware, and John Homans, *Committee on Publications.*

Woodbridge Strong, Z. B. Adams, and J. Jeffries, *Committee on Resignations.*

Edward Reynolds, Jr., M. D., is appointed to read the next annual discourse.

Officers of District Medical Societies.

ESSEX SOUTHERN DISTRICT SOCIETY—Andrew Nichols, Danvers, *President*. Abel L. Peirson, Salem, *Vice President*. George Choate, Salem, *Treasurer*. Benjamin Cox, Jr., Salem, *Secretary*. William P. Richardson, Salem, *Librarian*. Elected May, 1840.

WORCESTER DISTRICT SOCIETY—Benjamin F. Heywood, Worcester, *President*. Charles W. Wilder, Leominster, *Vice President*. William Workman, Worcester, *Secretary* and *Treasurer*. Henry Bigelow, Worcester, *Librarian*. Elected June, 1840.

BERKSHIRE DISTRICT SOCIETY—Alfred Perry, Stockbridge, *President*. William H. Tyler, Lanesboro', *Vice President*. Robert Worthington, Lenox, *Secretary*. Oren Wright, Pittsfield, *Treasurer*, *Librarian*, and *Cabinet Keeper*. William H. Tyler, *Auditor*. Elected May, 1833.

HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT SOCIETY—Benjamin Barrett, Northampton, *President*. Gardiner Dorrance, Amherst, *Vice President*. Elisha Mather, Northampton, *Secretary*. Watson Loud, Hadley, *Treasurer*. Edward E. Denniston, Northampton, *Librarian*. Elected September, 1839.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT SOCIETY—William C. Whitredge, New Bedford, *President*. Peter Mackie, Wareham, and Amory Glazier, Fall River, *Vice Presidents*. Samuel Sawyer, Fairhaven, *Secretary*. Paul Spooner, New Bedford, *Treasurer*. William R. Wells, New Bedford, *Librarian*. Elected May, 1840.

BARNSTABLE DISTRICT SOCIETY—Recently chartered, no return of officers.

HAMPDEN DISTRICT SOCIETY—Recently chartered, no return.

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Secretaries of District Societies are respectfully reminded
of the importance of making an early return of officers elected
in their several societies. See By-Laws, page 48.

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APPENDIX FOR 1841.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY was held on Wednesday, May 26th, 1841, at the Temple, Tremont street, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The records of the last meeting of the Society, and of the several meetings of the Counsellors, were read.

The report of the Committee, appointed at a special meeting of the Counsellors, held Feb. 18th, to ascertain and report at the next annual meeting of the Society, the number of Fellows then residing in each county, and within the limits of each District Medical Society, and the number of Counsellors to be elected in each, was read and accepted.

REPORT.

The Committee appointed at a special meeting of the Counsellors, held February 18th, "to ascertain and report at the next annual meeting of the Society, the number of Fellows then residing in each county, and within the limits of each District Medical Society, and the number of Counsellors to be elected in each," respectfully report :

That by the second section of the second By-Law, it is required, that "the Counsellors shall be elected from among the Fellows of the Society, residing within the several districts or counties, as nearly as may be in the proportion of one Counsellor to every eight fellows; provided that at least one Counsellor shall be elected in each county. Ballots shall first be given for Counsellors for those districts in which candidates shall have been selected by the district medical societies, agreeably to the provisions of the 45th By-Law. Counsellors for such portions of the State as are not included in any district society, and for any districts from which no return of Counsellors, selected by the district society, may have been received, shall then be balloted for.

In accordance with this direction, the Committee have taken up the counties alphabetically, and find that

Barnstable County contains 18 Fellows, all of whom are connected with the Barnstable District Medical Society, which gives it $2\frac{2}{3}$ Counsellors.

The Committee have adopted the rule, that where the fraction amounts to one half, an additional Counsellor should be allowed.

Berkshire County, 32 Fellows, members of the Berkshire District Medical Society; 4 Counsellors.

Bristol County, 32 Fellows; connected with the Southern District Medical Society, $23, 2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 Counsellors; out of the District Society, 9—1 Counsellor.

Duke's County, 3 Fellows; 1 Counsellor, all connected with the Southern District Medical Society.

Essex County. 75 Fellows, $9\frac{3}{8}$ Counsellors; connected with the Essex Southern District Medical Society, 48—6 Counsellors; out of the District Society, $27-3\frac{3}{8}$ Counsellors.

Franklin County, 15 Fellows, $1\frac{1}{2}$ —2 Counsellors.

Hampden County, 20 Fellows, $2\frac{4}{5}$ —3 Counsellors, all members of Hampden District Medical Society.

Hampshire County, 21 Fellows, all of whom are members of Hampshire District Medical Society, $2\frac{2}{3}$ or 3 Counsellors.

Middlesex County, 105 Fellows, $13\frac{1}{2}$ Counsellors.

Nantucket County, 3 Fellows, who are members of the Southern District Medical Society, 1 Counsellor.

Norfolk County, 47 Fellows, 5½ or 6 Counsellors.

Plymouth County, 34 Fellows, 9 members of the Southern District Medical Society, 1 Counsellor; 25 unconnected with the District Society, 3½—3 Counsellors.

Suffolk County, 148 Fellows, 18½—19 Counsellors.

Worcester County, 77 Fellows, all of whom are members of the Worcester District Medical Society, 9½—10 Counsellors.

The Committee would recommend, that after the election of Counsellors for the district medical societies, according to the provisions of the By-Law, in order to expedite the business of the Society and prevent confusion, the election for counties should be made separately and alphabetically.

All which is respectfully submitted, by

S. D. TOWNSEND,
GEORGE W. OTIS, JR., } *Committee.*
S. MORRILL,

Boston, May 26th, 1841.

Letters were then read from the Secretaries of the Barnstable District Medical Society, the Hampshire District Medical Society, and the Hampden District Medical Society, stating the organization of their several societies for the year 1841, and nominating to the Society the Fellows that had been selected for their Counsellors.

Voted, To proceed to ballot for Counsellors.

Drs. Z. B. Adams, of Boston, Bartlett, of Concord, Lewis of Boston, Willard, of Uxbridge, Storer, of Boston, Fearing of Nantucket, were appointed Scrutineers.

The Scrutineers reported the following Fellows as having been elected Counsellors :

Suffolk County. Drs. James Jackson, George C. Shattuck, Jacob Bigelow, Enoch Hale, Solomon D. Townsend, John Ware, Z. B. Adams, Edward Reynolds, Jr., John Homans, Woodbridge Strong, John Jeffries, George B. Doane, George W.

Otis, Jr., Winslow Lewis, Jr., Samuel Morrill, Jerome V. C. Smith, D. Humphreys Storer, John Flint, John D. Fisher.

Norfolk County. Drs. Nathaniel Miller, Rufus Wyman, Samuel Bugbee, Robert Thaxter, Jeremy Stimpson, Ebenezer Alden.

Middlesex County. Drs. Thomas Bucklin, Timothy Wellington, Zadok Howe, William J. Walker, John C. Dalton, Josiah Bartlett, John O. Green, Joshua Green, Elisha Bartlett, Anson Hooker, Nehemiah Cutter, J. Stearns Hurd, Charles F. Chaplin.

Franklin County. Drs. Stephen W. Williams, Alpheus F. Stone.

Nantucket County. Dr. Elisha P. Fearing.

Southern District Medical Society. Drs. Alexander Read, Paul Spooner, Leroy M. Yale, William Gordon, Amory Glazier.

Bristol County, not included in District Society. Dr. Caleb Swan.

Barnstable District Medical Society. Drs. Joseph Sampson, Aaron Cornish.

Hampden District Medical Society. Drs. Joseph H. Flint, David Bemis, John Appleton.

Hampshire District Medical Society. Drs. Atherton Clark, Benjamin Barrett, Gardiner Dorrance.

Worcester District Medical Society. Drs. Stephen Bachel-der, John Green, Edward Flint, Benjamin F. Heywood, Charles W. Wilder, George Willard, John G. Metcalf, Pierson T. Kendall, Joseph Stone, William W. Workman.

Essex Southern District Medical Society. Drs. Andrew Nichols, Abel L. Peirson, Edward L. Coffin, George Choate, Joseph Reynolds, Ebenezer Hunt.

Essex County, not in District Society. Drs. John Atkinson, George Cogswell, Isaac Boyd.

Plymouth County, not in District Society. Drs. Nathan Hayward, Ezekiel Thaxter, Paul R. Nichols.

Berkshire District Medical Society. Drs. Henry H. Childs, Asa G. Welch, Royal Fowler, Robert Worthington.

The Treasurer submitted his annual reports.

From that of Receipts and Expenditures, it appeared that the balance on hand last year was	\$160 02
Cash received at annual meeting,	771 10
Assessments at sundry times,	482 60
	<hr/> 1413 72
Expenditures during the year,	944 01
Leaving a balance in the Treasury of	<hr/> \$469 71 <hr/>

From the Report on the Permanent Fund, it appears, that the whole is invested in the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, in three policies, and, with interest, amounts to \$7117 43.

There are notes now due the Society amounting to \$79 00.

The following Report was then read :

The Committee appointed to examine the books and accounts of the Treasurer, have attended to that duty, and report, that the books are correctly kept, and the account is correctly cast and vouched.

The amount of expenses charged, is \$944 01, and the sums received amount to \$1413 72; leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of \$469 71.

They have also examined the policies of the General Hospital Insurance Company, and find them correct, and in accordance with the Report of the Treasurer on the Permanent Fund of the Society. The amount of the fund on the 1st of January, was \$7117 43.

(Signed,)

JOHN JEFFRIES,
S. MORRILL.

Boston, May 26th, 1841.

Voted, To accept the reports of the Treasurer and that of the Auditing Committee.

The following Report was read and accepted :

The Committee appointed to examine the Library, report that they have attended to the duty, and find the books in good order and well conditioned

(Signed,)

WOODBIDGE STRONG,
EDWARD REYNOLDS, JR.

Dr. Storer, from the Committee appointed at the February meeting of the Counsellors, to consider the expediency of appropriating the sum annually expended for the publication of a medical volume, to the purchase of standard medical works, presented the following Report, which was read and accepted :

REPORT.

The Committee appointed by the Council to consider the expediency of appropriating the annual assessments of its members to the purchase of standard medical works, which shall belong to the Society, instead of the course at present pursued, have attended to that duty, and would respectfully report :

That in order to obtain the views of the members generally upon this subject, they have carried on an extensive correspondence with the members of the Society, in all parts of the State, and have satisfied themselves, that it is desirable that no change should be made ; that the Fellows of the Society prefer that the present state of things should continue.

While your Committee are compelled, in compliance with the almost universal wish of the Society, to recommend, that the annual assessments of its members be appropriated as they have been heretofore, they cannot refrain from expressing their regret, that any misconception should have existed regarding the *motive*, which prompted the proposition, to consider the expediency of which they were appointed.

Those of the Society who reside in Boston have much greater facilities for obtaining new and valuable medical works, than those who live out of the city. It occurred to one of your Committee, who had been repeatedly applied to during the last two or three years, by his brethren in the interior of the State, for

the loan of medical works, that a great object would be gained, if a medical library could be formed by the Society, to which all its members could have access; that it would do much for the advancement of science throughout the State; and that its possession would tend to produce greater good fellowship.

When the motion, for the appointment of a Committee to consider this subject was offered, it embraced the whole design of the mover—he had no wish beyond the formation of a *medical library*—he was actuated by no selfishness; *Massachusetts*, not Boston, he proposed as its location; any spot within the territory of the State would have been equally acceptable to your Committee.

All which, is respectfully submitted.

D. H. STORER, JACOB BIGELOW, GEORGE HAYWARD,	} Committee.
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A proposition, submitted by Dr. Walker, to amend the twenty-fifth By-Law, by adding the words “or to make extracts therefrom,” was ordered to lie on the table.

At one o'clock, the Annual Discourse was read by Dr. Reynolds, on “The present Condition, Prospects, and Duties of the Medical Profession.”

On motion of Dr. Peirson, it was

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. Reynolds for his learned, interesting and candid discourse.

The motion relating to the amendment of the twenty-fifth By-Law was now called from the table by Dr. Walker, and, upon its being suggested that entertaining this proposition at the present meeting of the Society was contrary to the fourth By-Law, Dr. Walker offered the following vote:

Voted, That the words in the fourth section of the By-Laws, viz., “Alterations proposed by a Fellow shall be referred to the Counsellors, and shall not be acted upon until presented anew by them,” be stricken out from the said section. The Chair decided that it was not in order to act upon this subject at the

present meeting, but that it must first be submitted to the Counsellors. Dr. Walker appealed from the decision of the Chair. The appeal was not sustained by the Society. The motion to amend the fourth section of the By-laws, was referred to the Counsellors.

Voted, To dissolve the meeting.

Attest, GEORGE W. OTIS, JR., *Recording Secretary*.

Proceedings of the Counsellors.

OCTOBER MEETING, 1840.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's room, Pearl street, October 7th, 1840.

The records of the last meeting were read.

The Corresponding Secretary reported the names of the gentlemen who had become Fellows of the Society since the last meeting of the Counsellors.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from the Secretary of the Hampshire District Medical Society, giving information of the proceedings of said Society, which letter was placed on file.

The Corresponding Secretary also read a letter from the Secretary of the Censors of the third Medical District, which was placed on file.

The Committee on the Permanent Fund of the Society, made a Report, stating

That they had examined the policies issued in favor of the Society, by the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company,

and found that the agreements are made with the Massachusetts Medical Society, and not to any other person or parties whatever. They are, therefore, of opinion, that these funds are safe; and that they cannot be drawn out except by the Society itself, acting in conformity to the laws of the Commonwealth, and its own By-Laws.

This Report was accepted.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from Dr. Paul L. Nichols, of Kingston, respecting the propagation of leeches, which letter was referred to the Committee on Publications, with authority to publish it for general information, if the author consent.

To the Corresponding Secretary of the Mass. Med. Society.

DEAR SIR,—The great trouble and frequent impossibility of procuring leeches in the country, when I have felt the need of them, has induced me to seek out some way of preserving, and, if possible, of propagating them. And I now take the liberty of communicating to you, and through you, to the Massachusetts Medical Society (should you think it worth the trouble), the result thus far of my experiment.

Some time last autumn, I was furnished with about a hundred foreign leeches. They were in a very unpromising state for preservation, having all been recently used and thrown aside for a time, then crowded into a small box, gorged with blood, and transported in this state over thirty miles. I had a box prepared about fourteen inches square, and six inches deep, covered with a lid so constructed as to admit air and light. Within this was a smaller box perforated. The inner box was filled with clay, the outer one with river water. Into this double box (which was provided with a stopcock for changing the water), I put the abovementioned leeches. Six or eight weeks afterwards, I received about as many more, in the same unpromising state. Not wishing to mix them, I removed those first boxed into bottles of water, and found them well cleansed, and apparently healthy—with the very small loss of not more than four per cent.

The parcel last received, I put into the box as before, occasionally changing the water, where they cleansed themselves, and were successfully preserved during the winter. Finding it inconvenient to change the water in the bottles as often as it was necessary in the cold weather, I prepared another box, about nine inches square, of the same depth, and covered with a lid as the first, but single, which I filled with common brick clay, broken up and moistened with water; and into it I put this parcel of leeches, and preserved them during the winter, by merely sprinkling them once in a week or ten days. From these boxes (and mostly from the single one) I used from time to time, during the season, in my own practice, as nearly as I can recollect, from three to four dozen. I also furnished my professional brethren, Drs. Hayward and Warren, of Plymouth, and Wild, of Duxbury, with as many more. While I was using them in this way, I was often pleased to discover among them those of different sizes, from half an inch to an inch long, which I knew I had not put there, convincing me that my object was accomplished. And in the spring, on removing the clay, and counting, I found, to my great joy, that my stock nearly held good.

Now, sir, I have to express my conviction that this is not the best that can be done, and that I expect in future to do *very much better*. For during all this time I had been inattentive to the *manner* of their propagating, not recollecting that the leech is an *oviparous* animal; and every time that I rashly disturbed the clay to get a leech, I probably destroyed the eggs of a dozen. It was not till I accidentally found the cocoons amongst the clay last spring, that I was warned of the impropriety of disturbing the clay in taking the leech. This is easily avoided; for sprinkling with a little water will cause them to rise to the surface and enable you to take them off at pleasure. I send you two of the broken cocoons, which I accidentally found, and shall probably be able to send you more, if desired, in a more perfect state.

At present, my box of clay has not been broken up since the first of June; and by moistening it to-day (as I am often doing)

for the purpose of taking some out for use, I find some of very small size; which causes me to hope, and confidently believe, that I shall be able, by-and-by, to render you a more satisfactory account, should you wish it.

Permit me, from what I have already observed, to express to you my firm belief, that any of our brethren, situated as I am, in the country, may save themselves much trouble and expense by a little attention to this matter, and by purchasing fifty leeches, may, by a *very* little care, keep themselves provided for their life time. It was my intention, at our last annual meeting, to have made some statement on this subject to the whole Society; but want of time and opportunity prevented. My object is to do good, and if in your hands, these imperfect suggestions can be made in any way conducive to that end, I am happy to submit them.

With great respect, truly yours,

P. L. NICHOLS.

Kingston, August 20, 1840.

On motion of Dr. Hale, it was

Voted, That the vacancy in the Committee on leeches, occasioned by the death of Dr. Mather, be now filled.

Dr. Storer was elected to fill this vacancy.

On motion of Dr. Hale, it was

Voted, That the Committee on Publications select and publish a volume of the Library of Practical Medicine, to be distributed at the next annual meeting of the Society; one copy to each District Society's library, and to each retired member who shall apply for it, and to each Fellow who shall have paid his assessments; provided that the expense shall not exceed \$500.

On motion of Dr. Bigelow, it was

Voted, That the Treasurer be requested to report the names of all Fellows, who, on being called on to discharge their dues to the Society, have refused so to do; and all those who have been delinquent over six years.

The Counsellors then proceeded to ballot for members.

Samuel G. Morton, of Philadelphia, was chosen an Honorary Member.

The following gentlemen were chosen Fellows:

John L. Lathrop, Provincetown; Chester Bardwell, Whately; William Greene, Falmouth; Samuel A. Orr, East Bridgewater; Daniel Thompson, Northampton; Thomas Meekins, Williamsburg; Timothy J. Gridley, Amherst; Philemon Stacy, Hadley; John S. Champney, Abington; Jehiel Abbot, Westfield; Stephen Bates, Charlemont; James Dean, Greenfield.

Meeting dissolved.

GEORGE W. OTIS, JR., *Recording Secretary*.

FEBRUARY MEETING, 1841.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's room, Pearl street, February 3d, 1841.

The records of the last meeting were read.

The President presented a letter from Dr. Bartlett, of Lowell, covering an order of notice from the Legislature, on the petition of E. Huntington and others, of Lowell, praying that a Medical School may be established in that place.

On motion of Dr. Hale, it was

Voted, That the order of notice be referred to a Committee, to report at this meeting.

Drs. Warren, Hale, and Nichols, of Danvers, were appointed this Committee.

The Recording Secretary read a letter from the Secretary of the Barnstable District Medical Society, containing an account of the organization of said Society, which is as follows:

JOSEPH SAMPSON, of Brewster, *President*. AARON CORNISH, of Falmouth, *Vice President*. HENRY TUCK, of Barnstable, *Secretary*. JAMES B. FORSYTH, of Sandwich, *Treasurer*. THOMAS B. JACKSON, of Yarmouth, *Librarian and Curator*.

The Committee on the order of notice, report that they do not perceive that the interests of this Society are likely to be interfered with by the application of E. Huntington and others; but, as it is possible that the power of this Society to examine candidates and grant licenses may be involved, they recommend that a Committee be appointed to attend to the course of proceedings in regard to the above application, and to request the President to call a meeting of the Counsellors, to attend to the interests of the Society, if they should deem it necessary.

Also, that this Committee ascertain whether any provision is made in the act proposed, for a body of independent overseers to the proposed institution; and, if not, then the Committee adopt such measures as may seem necessary to introduce such provision.

The Report was accepted; and Drs. Warren, Nichols, and Homans were appointed a Committee to carry it into effect.

Dr. Hale, from the Statistical Committee, submitted the following Report, with a Memorial to be addressed to the Legislature, both of which were accepted.

On motion of Dr. Hale, it was

Voted, That the Memorial be signed by the President, and be presented to the Legislature by a Committee.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

COUNSELLORS' MEETING, FEBRUARY 3, 1841.

The Committee appointed to carry into effect the recommendations of a Report, adopted by the Counsellors at their meeting in May last, respectfully report:

That after giving the subject much attention, they found themselves unable to fix upon any plan for a circular and returns which they believed would accomplish the purposes designed. Statistical returns, to be of any value, must be exact. It would answer but little purpose for the Fellows of this Society to record and return the births and deaths occurring under their own observation, because the circle of practice of each is indefinite, so that the numbers could not be compared with a known

amount of population. And if they should attempt, as is recommended in the Report referred to this Committee, to report the numbers each in the town in which he resides, they would find that these numbers cannot be ascertained, by any means within the reach of individual exertion. The radical difficulty is, that no efficient registers are kept of either deaths or births, in any part of the Commonwealth. This difficulty the Committee are persuaded can only be remedied by the Legislature. The Committee, therefore, respectfully recommend, that the Counsellors present a Memorial to the Legislature now in session, praying them to enact a law that shall provide for an effectual system of registration and return of the deaths, births and marriages in all the towns in this Commonwealth.

The form of a Memorial to the Legislature is herewith respectfully submitted.

ENOCH HALE, *for the Committee.*

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Memorial of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society respectfully represents :

That the interests of humanity and science, as well as those of morals and the public health, would be essentially promoted by an efficient registration and return of deaths, births and marriages in all the towns of this Commonwealth. The law now requires a record of births and marriages ; but the provision is not such, your memorialists are informed, as to secure any general or adequate attention being paid to it. No public record of deaths is required by law, and none is made, except in a very few places. And no provision is made for any return of such records as are kept, so that their results may be rendered available for the purposes of general utility.

The census of successive periods shows a rapid rate of increase of our population, exhibiting the remarkable fact, that the number of persons now living in this country is greater than that of all who have ever died in it since the first settlement of the country by Europeans. But in what degree this increase

is the effect of causes naturally existing among us, or how far it is produced by immigration, there are at present no means of knowing. This, and many other questions of great importance in political economy and other branches of science, may be ascertained by an accurate comparison of the births and deaths with the existing population. The influence of the different employments and states of society on the public morals and the general welfare would be exhibited, and thus the means may be obtained of judging to what extent each should be fostered and encouraged.

But it is on account of its importance in promoting the public health, that your memorialists, as physicians, attach the strongest interest to this measure. Many of the causes of disease, as they affect different communities, engaged in a great variety of occupations, can only be ascertained by observations on an extensive scale, far beyond the reach of individual research. An accurate return of deaths from the different sections of the State, for a series of years, would greatly aid in the investigation of these causes, and would doubtless do much towards enabling us to find means for the removal of some of them. For example, the relative prevalence of consumption is much greater in some places than in others; and there are those who believe that its prevalence is in a great degree counteracted by that of certain other diseases. A full establishment of the truth in regard to this opinion, as it might be established by such returns as we propose, might do something at least to diminish the mortality of a disease, which now cuts off so many at the most interesting and useful period of life.

Your memorialists will not attempt to present more than a very few of the considerations which might be offered in favor of the measure, to which they respectfully but earnestly call the attention of the Legislature. They doubt not that many others of equal weight will readily occur to the minds of the members of your honorable body, whenever they are able to give to the subject the degree of reflection, to which its importance justly entitles it. They would only suggest, in addition, that an inquiry into the causes of death, for the purposes of a record, might

often aid in no slight degree the objects of justice, and not unfrequently diminish or prevent the trouble and expense of a coroner's inquest.

The valuable results which have proceeded from the new system of registration recently adopted in England, furnish the greatest encouragement to believe that results no less beneficial might easily be obtained among ourselves; where the divisions into towns of convenient extent, and the provision of municipal officers already existing, would greatly facilitate its introduction, with such modifications as the condition and habits of our people might require, or as observation and inquiry might suggest. Your memorialists believe that they may confidently promise the prompt and cheerful co-operation of the whole medical profession throughout the Commonwealth, in any measures which the wisdom of the Legislature may devise for the accomplishment of this highly desirable object.

Your memorialists, therefore, pray the Legislature to take the subject into consideration, and to enact a law which shall provide an effectual system of registration and return of the deaths, births and marriages, in all the towns in this Commonwealth.

By order of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society. *(Signed,)*

RUFUS WYMAN, *Pres. Mass. Med. Society.*

GEORGE W. OTIS, JR., *Secretary.*

The Committee on Statistics was appointed to carry this vote into effect.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from Dr. Childs, of the Berkshire District, on arrearages of the members of that District, and the course that had recently been pursued in making collections.

Dr. Strong explained, and reported verbally on the subject committed to him at the last meeting of the Counsellors.

On motion of Dr. Adams, it was

Voted, That the Treasurer, with the concurrence of the President, shall have the power to settle with all such Fellows as

owe more than number of annual assessments; either by remitting the whole or part of the same, or by taking any legal measures according to their judgment. This vote to continue in force until the next annual meeting of the Society.

On motion of Dr. Storer, it was

Voted, That a Committee be appointed to consider the expediency of appropriating the sum annually expended for the publication of a medical volume, to the purchase of standard medical works, and to report thereon at the next annual meeting.

Drs. Storer, Bigelow, and Hayward were appointed this Committee.

The following gentlemen were elected Fellows:

Jesse W. Rice, Wilbraham; Dr. Deane, Holland; John Smith, Aaron Shaw, Wales; Asa Lincoln, Ebenezer Knight, Brimfield; Oliver McKinsley, Alvin Smith, Monson; A. Davis, Marcus Shearer, Palmer; Washington B. Alden, Ludlow; William Swan, George Frost, Jefferson Church, John I. Bassett, Ezra Osborne, John B. Bridgman, James M. Smith, Elihu Halliday, Springfield; Rhoderick A. White, Granville; Silas P. Wright, Horatio Bryant, Blandford; T. H. D'Wolf, Dr. Moore, James S. White, Chester; James Deane, Greenfield; W. A. Wilkins, Leonard Morgan, Leyden; Humphrey Gould, Rowe; Joseph Emerson, Heath; Stephen Bates, Moses Barrett, Charlemont; Charles M. Duncan, George Ball, Shelburne; Nathaniel G. Trow, Buckland; Milo Wilson, Ashfield; Chester Bardwell, Myron Harwood, Whately; Loring Allen, South Deerfield; Abraham S. Haskell, Deerfield; David Bradford, Montague; Philip Hall, Northfield; Bradley Noyes, New Salem; Abbot White, Shutesbury; Edward Barton, Orange; Robert Andrews, South Orange; Dr. Champlin, West Springfield.

Voted, To dissolve the meeting.

GEORGE W. OTIS, JR., *Recording Secretary*.

SPECIAL MEETING.

A special meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's room, on Thursday, February 18th, 1841.

The proceedings of the last meeting were read.

The President laid before the Counsellors the following communication:

To RUFUS WYMAN, M. D., President of the Massachusetts Medical Society:

The subscribers, Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, request you to call a special meeting of the Counsellors on Thursday, the 18th instant, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

(Signed,)

JOHN HOMANS,
EDWARD REYNOLDS, JR.,
DAVID OSGOOD,
D. H. STORER,
W. STRONG.

Boston, February 12, 1841.

The President then caused to be read the following communication:

DR. WYMAN, President of the Mass. Medical Society:

Sir,—I have been directed to communicate to you the following vote, just adopted by the Committee on Education. The same is also communicated to Dr. G. W. Otis.

Voted, That the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society be requested to give, as early as may be convenient, to the Committee of Education of the House of Representatives, their objections, if any, to the granting of the petition now before that Committee, for the incorporation of a Medical Institution at Lowell.

Respectfully,

J. A. SHAW.

Boston, February 10th, 1841.

On motion of Dr. Warren, it was

Voted, That a Committee be appointed to select and contract for a suitable room, wherein to hold the meetings of the Counsellors.

Drs. Warren and Lewis were appointed to constitute that Committee.

Dr. Warren, in behalf of the Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Counsellors on the application of E. Huntington and others to the Legislature, made the following Report :

The Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Counsellors to attend to the course of the application to the Legislature for a medical school in Lowell, beg leave to report :

That they have, in conformity with the vote of the Counsellors, attended the meetings of the Legislative Committee to whom this subject was referred, that no report has yet been made by that Committee ; and that, therefore, they would recommend a continued attention to the subject, in order that the privileges of this Society may be guarded from invasion and encroachment, and that a Committee, consisting of the officers of the Society, be appointed, to attend to the further progress of the application.

By order of the Committee.

J. C. WARREN.

February 7th, 1841.

This report was accepted, and the Committee accordingly appointed.

Dr. James Jackson offered the following vote :

The Committee on Education of the House of Representatives having requested the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society to give their objections, if any, to the granting of the petition now before that Committee, for the incorporation of a medical institution at Lowell, the Counsellors beg leave to make the following reply to that Committee :

At the meeting of the Counsellors on the first Wednesday in February, a notice was given them from the Committee on Education, of the petition for a medical institution at Lowell ; but the Counsellors then thought it sufficient to suggest the importance of having proper guards placed about any institution which asked for the privilege of conferring medical degrees,

and they abstained from engaging in the consideration of the expediency of forming the institution proposed. Under this renewed application to them, the Counsellors conceive that the Committee wishes to ascertain their views on the point, and that it is their duty to give them. They therefore submit the following opinions and considerations to the Committee :

The Counsellors think it obvious, that the public good rather than the private interest of individuals ought to decide all questions relating to the general subject of medical education.

It is the interest of the public, that those who are declared qualified to take charge of the health and lives of their fellow-men, should have undergone the most thorough education which the circumstances of our community will permit ; and should be faithfully examined in regard to their attainments.

The Counsellors believe, that a thorough medical education, which shall qualify young men to enter on practice at the expiration of their pupilage, can be best obtained in those situations where pupils enjoy opportunities of forming a personal and practical acquaintance with the anatomy of the human body, and with medical and surgical practice in all its branches.

Such opportunities, as connected with medical schools, are to be found only in cities which possess extensive and well-endowed hospitals, together with ample buildings and apparatus for the demonstration of all the branches of medical science ; and there is not, probably, any instance in which a medical school has become eminently flourishing or useful, without establishments and facilities of this sort.

The Counsellors are of opinion, that the medical school now existing in Boston possesses abundant facilities of the kind abovementioned. From what they know of the time and labor expended by the professors of that school on the various branches of medical science, and also of the ability and faithfulness of those professors, in addition to the local advantages of the institution, they are inclined to believe, that the course of instruction in that school, considered as a whole, is superior to that of any medical school in New England, and equal to that of any in the United States.

In a city like Boston, there will be no difficulty, at any future time, in finding resident physicians and surgeons, not only competent on the score of learning, but also qualified by experience and practice to form correct judgments in the branches to be taught, and who will be willing to give their time to the business of instruction. The probability, at least, of finding such must always be greater, the larger the town or city in which they are to be sought.

In New England the number of medical schools is already two or three times greater than in any corresponding amount of population in the United States. In consequence of the excess of competition thus produced, few of these schools are flourishing, some are languishing, and others virtually extinct.

If schools are still to be multiplied, especially in the neighborhood of each other, it will tend to enfeeble and degrade the office of medical teaching, and render it difficult to engage the services of persons duly qualified to fill its departments.

The Counsellors do not perceive, either in the situation or advantages of Lowell, any peculiar fitness in that city for becoming the seat of a medical institution, which may not be found, nearly in the same degree, in the other large towns in the Commonwealth. And if the expediency of multiplying schools be once admitted, they fear that an unworthy spirit of competition would soon be engendered; which would tend, not to educate better physicians, but to attract more students, by lowering the amount of acquisitions required from them preparatory to entering practice. The Counsellors are, therefore, fully of opinion, that the public good, which requires that physicians should be well educated, would be injured, rather than advanced, by the incorporation of a medical school at Lowell.

It was now moved by Dr. Jackson, that this vote be adopted as a reply to the Committee of the Legislature.

Pending this motion, on motion of Dr. Walker, it was

Voted, That when the main question be taken, it be by yeas and nays.

On motion of Dr. Bigelow, it was

Voted, To excuse the faculty of Harvard University from voting on this question.

After considerable discussion, in which Drs. Strong, Jackson, Warren, and others participated, upon taking the question, it appeared that 17 Counsellors voted in the affirmative, and 5 in the negative.

The Counsellors voting in the affirmative were, Drs. Morrill, Adams, Doane, Jeffries, Barker, Storer, Osgood, Johnson, Peirson, Reynolds, Hooker, Hale, Jackson, Stimpson, Coffin, Townsend, and Otis.

The Counsellors voting in the negative were, Drs. Walker, Hurd, Hildreth, Dalton, and Strong.

So the vote was adopted, as a reply of the Counsellors to the Committee of the Legislature.

On motion of Dr. Jackson, it was

Voted, That a copy of this vote, duly authenticated by the President and Recording Secretary, be transmitted to the Chairman of the Committee on Education of the Legislature.

The following protest was, by vote of the Counsellors, directed to be entered on the records.

The subscribers hereby protest against the doings of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society on the Lowell petition, and claim an appeal to the Society at large at their next annual meeting, and request that this protest may be entered on the journal, because the Counsellors have no power to act for the Society in the matter.

W. J. WALKER,
W. STRONG,
GEORGE CHOATE.

On motion of Dr. Hale, it was

Voted, That the Corresponding and Recording Secretaries and the Librarian be a Committee to ascertain and report to the Society at the next annual meeting, the number of Fellows then residing in each county, and within the limits of each District Medical Society, and the number of Counsellors to be elected in each.

Drs. Morrill and Jeffries were appointed a Committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts.

Drs. Strong and Reynolds were appointed a Committee to examine the library.

Drs. Putnam, Smith, and Hooker, were appointed a Committee to procure kine pock matter for the use of the Society.

Voted, To dissolve the meeting.

GEORGE W. OTIS, JR., *Recording Secretary*.

MAY MEETING, 1841.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's room, Tremont street, May 27th, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

The records of the last meeting were read.

The Corresponding Secretary reported the names of the gentlemen who had become Fellows of the Society since the last meeting of the Counsellors.

Voted, To proceed to the choice of officers for the ensuing year.

Drs. Dalton, of Lowell, Flint, of Boston, and Coffin, of Lynn, were appointed Scrutineers.

RUFUS WYMAN, of Roxbury, was chosen *President*.

STEPHEN BATCHELDER, of Royalston, *Vice President*.

SOLOMON D. TOWNSEND, *Corresponding Secretary*.

GEORGE W. OTIS, JR., *Recording Secretary*.

WOODBIDGE STRONG, *Treasurer*.

SAMUEL MORRILL, *Librarian*.

Censors for the Society at large, and the First Medical District, Drs. A. L. Peirson, Z. B. Adams, John Jeffries, Anson Hooker, Winslow Lewis, Jr.

For the Second Medical District, Drs. John Green, B. F. Heywood, C. W. Wilder, Benjamin Pond, William Workman.

For the Third Medical District, Drs. S. W. Williams, David Bemis, Benjamin Barrett, Gardiner Dorrance, John Appleton.

For the Fourth Medical District, Drs. H. H. Childs, Royal Fowler, A. G. Welch, Robert Worthington, N. S. Babbitt.

Committee on Publications, Drs. Enoch Hale, John Homans, D. H. Storer.

Committee on Resignations, Drs. Woodbridge Strong, Z. B. Adams, John Jeffries.

Dr. Stephen W. Williams, of Deerfield, was chosen to deliver the next annual discourse.

The Report of the Treasurer was read and accepted.

The Report of the Censors for the Society at large, and the First Medical District was read and accepted.

The petition of the Fellows residing in Nantucket to be discharged from the Southern District Medical Society, and that Nantucket be no longer included in that District, was granted.

Dr. Hale, from the Committee appointed to memorialize the Legislature on the subject of the registration of births, deaths, &c., presented the following Report, which was read and accepted:

The Committee appointed to present to the Legislature the Memorial of the Counsellors, on the subject of a more effectual registration and return of births, marriages and deaths, respectfully report:

That the Memorial was presented in the Senate of the Commonwealth, at the same time with a similar Memorial from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The Memorials were referred to a Committee of the Senate, who received the subject favorably; but in consequence of the shortness of the session, they thought it best to propose a reference of it to the next Legislature. The Committee, therefore, respectfully recommend that a Committee be appointed to continue their attention to the subject, and to take the requisite measures, in conjunction with the Committee already appointed for the same purpose by the American Academy, to obtain, if possible,

the action of the Legislature upon it at the next session. The Committee would also hope, that the individual members of the Society will, as they have opportunity, give such explanations of the utility and importance of the proposed improvement as shall aid in obtaining its accomplishment.

ENOCH HALE, *for the Committee.*

Boston, May 27, 1841.

Drs. Hale, Alden and Storer were elected the Committee.

On motion of Dr. Choate, it was

Voted, That the Treasurer, in concurrence with the President, shall have the power to settle with all such Fellows as owe more than four annual assessments, either by remitting the whole or any part thereof, or by taking any legal measures according to their judgment. This vote to continue in force one year.

The following Report of the Committee on the subject of procuring a room for the use of the Society, was read and accepted:

The Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Counsellors to procure and contract for a room for the Counsellors' meetings, beg leave to report:

That they have attended to the duty assigned them, and have procured a room in the Temple, for the sum of \$125 per annum; with the use of the large hall in that building for the annual meetings of the Society. The latter without additional expense, so long as it is not permanently occupied.

Which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Committee.

JOHN C. WARREN, *Chairman.*

Boston, May 26, 1841.

On motion of Dr. Spooner, it was

Voted, That a Committee be appointed to consider the subject of the collection of future assessments in District Societies.

Drs. Spooner, Choate and Workman were appointed this Committee.

It was

Voted, That the Librarian be authorized to supply new members with the eleventh volume of the Society's publications at the price of one dollar.

The petition of the Hampden District Society for the loan of sixty volumes from the Library was granted, and the Librarian was authorized to deliver them.

Voted, To dissolve the meeting.

GEORGE W. OTIS, JR., *Recording Secretary*.

The following gentlemen have resigned Fellowship by permission of the Counsellors, all in 1841.

Timothy Fiske, Holliston; by reason of age, and he is therefore a *Retired Member*. Charles Walker, Northampton; John Seabury, Sturbridge.

SAMUEL G. MORTON, M. D., of Philadelphia, has been elected an Honorary Member. 1840.

The following gentlemen have become Fellows since the last publication :

In 1838, Samuel S. Whitney, Newton Upper Falls.*

In 1839, Robert H. Collyer, Pittsfield.

In 1840, John Pierce, Edgartown; Daniel Mann, Boston; Willard Clough, Pittsfield; George Sturtevant, Jedediah Miller, Middleborough; John B. Johnson, Fairhaven; Jacob Richards, Jr., Braintree; Stephen A. Paine, Provincetown; Nathan W. Oliver, Benjamin Mann, George Tower, J. F. W. Lane, Boston; John A. Cummings, Dunstable; William Hawes, Boston; Luther Bugbee, Spencer; Christopher C. Holmes, Milton; William J. Dale, William A. Davis, Boston; John L. Lathrop, Provincetown; John Meekins, Williamsburg; Jonas Guilford, Spencer; Francis H. Chase, William S. Childs, Pittsfield; Daniel H. Batchelder, Beverly; William Mack, Salem; Otis Hoyt, Framingham; Frederick A. Eddy, Boston; John Toomy, Chelsea; Jehiel Abbot, Westfield; James Deane, Greenfield; Philemon Stacey, Hadley; John S. Champney, Abington.

In 1841, Augustine C. Taft, Uxbridge; William Greene, North Falmouth; Timothy H. Brown, Worthington; John A. Delano, Amherst; Bradley Noyes, New Salem; Samuel Trull, Boston; Silas P. Wright, Blandford; T. H. D'Wolf, Chester; Benjamin

* By the By-Laws, a Fellow who has signed the By-Laws with a Counsellor is not strictly regarded as a Fellow until his certificate is transmitted to the Corresponding Secretary. But in a few instances the certificate has been delayed, and the names are here given with the year of the signature to the By-Laws.

F. Hardy, New Bedford; Henry Carpenter, Jr., Upton; Charles Thacher, Boston; John Smith, Wales; James M. Smith, Springfield; Aaron Shaw, Wales; Charles M. Duncan, Shelburne; James Harrison Gray, Enfield; Ebenezer B. Allen, Northampton; John Bacon, Jr., John Francis Tuckerman, Boston; H. Erastus Clapp, Worcester; Edward Barton, South Orange; Thomas Wilbur, Fall River; Horatio Bryant, Blandford; Henry Lincoln, Worcester; Phineas Savery, Thaddeus Phelps, Attleboro; Kendall Flint, Haverhill.

Officers of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

ELECTED MAY 27, 1841.

RUFUS WYMAN, M. D., of Roxbury, *President*.

STEPHEN BACHELDER, M. D., of Royalston, *Vice President*.

SOLOMON D. TOWNSEND, *Corresponding Secretary*.

GEORGE W. OTIS, Jr., *Recording Secretary*.

WOODBIDGE STRONG, *Treasurer*.

SAMUEL MORRILL, *Librarian*.

A. L. Peirson, Z. B. Adams, John Jeffries, A. Hooker, and W. Lewis, Jr., *Censors* for the Society at large, and the First Medical District.

John Green, B. F. Heywood, C. W. Wilder, Benjamin Pond, and William W. Workman, *Censors* for the Second District.

S. W. Williams, D. Bemis, B. Barrett, G. Dorrance, and J. Appleton, *Censors* for the Third District.

H. H. Childs, R. Fowler, A. G. Welch, R. Worthington, and N. S. Babbitt, *Censors* for the Fourth District.

Enoch Hale, John Homans, and D. H. Storer, *Committee on Publications*.

Woodbridge Strong, Z. B. Adams, and J. Jeffries, *Committee on Resignations*.

Stephen W. Williams, M. D., of Deerfield, is appointed to read the next annual discourse.

Officers of District Medical Societies.

ESSEX SOUTHERN DISTRICT SOCIETY. Andrew Nichols, *President*. Abel L. Peirson, *Vice President*. George Choate, *Treasurer*. William Mack, *Secretary*. William P. Richardson, *Librarian*.

[The limits of this Society are erroneously given in the catalogue of District Societies, appended to the last edition of the By-Laws. The Society is composed of the Fellows residing in the following towns, all in Essex County: Lynn, Saugus, Marblehead, Salem, Danvers, Beverly, Wenham, Middleton, Topsfield, Ipswich, Hamilton, Essex, Gloucester, Rockport, and Manchester.]

WORCESTER DISTRICT SOCIETY. B. F. Heywood, *President*. C. W. Wilder, *Vice President*. William Workman, *Secretary* and *Treasurer*. Henry G. Davis, *Librarian*. James W. Robbins to read a dissertation at the next annual meeting.

BERKSHIRE DISTRICT SOCIETY. No return of officers has been received.

HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT SOCIETY. B. Barrett, *President*. G. Dorrance, *Vice President*. L. S. Hopkins, *Secretary*. C. A. Hall, *Treasurer*. D. Thompson, *Librarian*.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT SOCIETY. P. Spooner, New Bedford, *President*. J. Perkins, Middleboro', and J. H. Archer, Fall River, *Vice Presidents*. S. Savage, Fairhaven, *Secretary*. William A. Gordon, New Bedford, *Treasurer*. William R. Wells, New Bedford, *Librarian*.

[Nantucket, with the consent of the Society and of the Counsellors, has withdrawn from this District Society.]

BARNSTABLE DISTRICT SOCIETY. Joseph Sampson, Brewster, *President*. Aaron Cornish, Falmouth, *Vice President*. Henry Tuck, Barnstable, *Secretary*. James B. Forsyth, Sandwich, *Treasurer*. Thomas P. Jackson, Yarmouth, *Librarian* and *Curator*.

HAMPDEN DISTRICT SOCIETY. Aaron King, Palmer, *President*. John Appleton, Westfield, *Secretary*. James M. Smith, Springfield, *Treasurer* and *Librarian*.

